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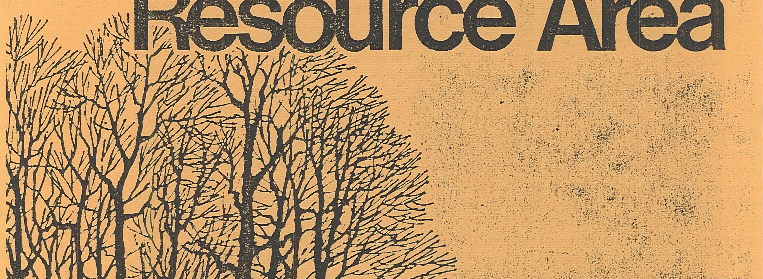

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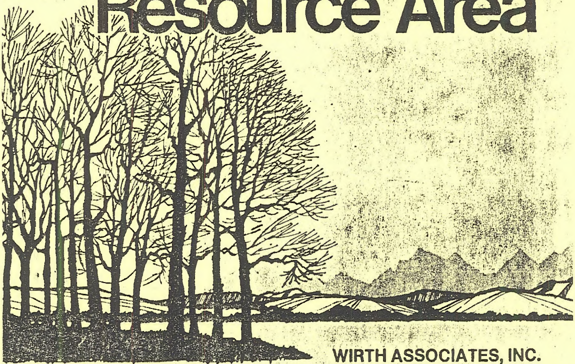

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June 5, 1979

Mr. Robert Cleary, Jr.
Landscape Architect
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction District Office
764 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Rob:

Enclosed is the Draft Report and Maps of the Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield Planning Units for your review and comments.

Table 3 dealing with Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume is lacking five use volume indicators for appropriate Key Observation Points. The base information provided us has been misplaced following the draft mapping effort in which this information was used.

It would be appreciated if you could give us input as to the appropriate volume/key observation point when you return this draft report with your comments.

Sincerely,

WIRTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

Tim Tetherow
Tim Tetherow
Project Manager

CSO Library

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INTRODUCTION

VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
GRAND JUNCTION RESOURCE AREA

BAXTER/DOUGLAS AND MT. GARFIELD PLANNING UNITS

INTRODUCTION

This report constitutes a draft Visual Resource Inventory of two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Units within the Grand Junction Resource Area (RA), Colorado. The inventory has been conducted for all of the Baxter/Douglas and Mt. Garfield Planning Units, which in total encompass 643,000 acres. This study has been conducted in compliance with the BLM Manual Section 8411 - Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation, and includes an inventory of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity and Distance Zones.

The entire inventory is comprised of the following components:

MAPS:

1. Photo Index
2. Scenic Quality Rating Units
   Cultural Modifications
   Scenic Quality Ratings
3. Use Volume
4. User Attitudes
5. Final Visual Sensitivity
6. Distance Zones

RATING FORMS:

1. Scenic Quality Rating Unit Field Forms
2. Cultural Modifications Field Forms

3. Visual Sensitivity Workshop Summary and Analysis Forms

PHOTOGRAPHS:

1. 35 MM color slides
2. 35 MM black and white photos and negatives

All photographs are provided in the accompanying volume with an index.

This inventory was conducted between December 9 and December 12, 1978, and included 20 person days of field study. A Visual Sensitivity workshop was held in Grand Junction on February 14 to establish User Sensitivity to Visual Change within Scenic Quality Rating Units for each Planning Unit.

STUDY TEAM

The study was conducted by an interdisciplinary team composed of the following individuals:

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Tim Tetherow - Landscape Architect

PROJECT MANAGER - SCENIC QUALITY
Ken Magdziuk - Landscape Architect

SCENIC QUALITY STUDY TEAM
Ed Beveridge - Landscape Architect
Mark Figley - Landscape Architect
Paul Goldberg - Regional Planner
Carla Johnson - Geologist

PROJECT MANAGER - VISUAL SENSITIVITY/DISTANCE ZONES
Craig Taggart - Landscape Architect

VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY TEAM
Terry Smythe - Landscape Architect

DISTANCE ZONES STUDY TEAM
Terry Smythe - Landscape Architect

METHODOLOGY

All participants are employees of Wirth Associates, Inc. with the exception of Carla Johnson, who is employed by Dames & Moore (subcontractor on this study).

METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The basic sequential steps involved in the inventory of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity and Distance Zones are outlined as follows:

SCENIC QUALITY

1. Determine and map Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU)
2. Rate and document scenic quality levels
3. Rate and document man-made (cultural) landscape modifications

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

1. Determine important viewer locations (Key Observer Points - KOPs)
2. Determine the land that can be seen from the KOP (seen area analysis)
3. Map use volume levels for KOPs within the seen area
4. Determine user attitudes toward man-made landscape modifications
5. Determine final sensitivity levels based on a combination of use volume and user attitudes

DISTANCE ZONES

1. Determine KOPs (as above)
2. Determine seen area from KOPs
3. Map distance zones within the seen area

A two-phase approach to the inventory of visual resources was developed and used in this study. The first phase involved preliminary mapping in the office. The second phase was done in the field and involved confirmation of preliminary mapping, actual field inventory and follow-up management review of field results.

Phase One involved the following basic steps:

A. Preliminary determination of Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU) in the office from topographic maps and aerial photographs.

B. Determination of KOPs in the office from BLM and other agency data.

C. Preliminary determination of the seen area from KOPs.

D. Mapping use volume levels of KOPs.

E. Preliminary mapping of Distance Zones from KOPs.

Phase Two involved the following basic steps:

A. Field verification of SQRU boundaries and scenic quality rating.

B. Field identification and rating of cultural modifications.

C. Field verification of seen area and distance zones.

D. Overflight and ground reconnaissance by the Project Director and Project Manager to review field inventory results.

E. Workshop session(s) with selected public and agency representatives to determine user attitudes toward visual change in the landscape.

F. Determination of final sensitivity levels based on user volume and user attitudes.

This two phase approach was devised and utilized for efficiency in completing the inventory portion within the short time alloted for each planning unit. (Specifically, field team members had a preliminary indication of rating units and zones to react to, rather than having to start from a blank base map in

the field). It also built in a series of checks and reviews by both management and field team personnel since all areas were reviewed on three occasions: preliminary office evaluation, field inventory, and field review.

SCENIC QUALITY

OVERVIEW

The analysis of a landscape's "scenic quality" requires a number of methodological and procedural decisions. Early in these decisions is establishing the rating unit and thereby defining the scale of analysis and the physical size of each area (or unit) to be field checked. These decisions are subjective but not arbitrary and during field inspection are refined as needed.

After each rating unit has been field checked, several categories or "general types" of rating units emerge within each planning unit. The general types provide an indication of the diversity of the landscape within each planning unit and serve as a guide to that unit's landscape character.

Man-made alterations to the natural landscape are either "cultural intrusions" or "modifications." These alterations become visual attractions or detract from the landscape and consist of a wide range of items and scales.

The scenic quality rating based on subjective data becomes a relative indicator of the landscape's visual quality. The data used was formulated by the BLM and outlined in their manual (8411) on the subject.

These elements: SQRU Criteria; SQRU Classification; Cultural Modification Criteria; and Scenic Quality Rating Criteria make up the methodological and procedural components of Scenic Quality. Detailed sections of each element follow.

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CRITERIA

The Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU) were defined by a three-step process which entailed: 1) predelineation of units, 2) aerial verification, and 3) field refinement and final delineation.

Within each of the steps the rating units were further refined to reflect their physical boundaries from the following criteria:

1. Predelineation of Units - The data collection areas were first defined by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Areas and Planning Units. From these planning boundaries initial rating units were drawn using guidelines supplied in the BLM Manual 8411, "Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation", and a series of maps including topographic maps (generally 7-1/2 minute and 15 minute USGS quadrangles) relief maps, and aerial photographic quadrangles. The key element in establishing rating units was discerning areas of physiographic integrity; where physical size became unimportant and gave way to defining areas of similar scenic quality. These definitions required careful analysis of scale and visibility, a difficult requirement to meet from map study alone, and lead to both our second and third steps.

2. Field Refinement and Delineation - Using topographic field maps with the refined rating units drawn on them, the three-member interdisciplinary teams drove through each planning unit first to become familiar with the general area, then specifically into each rating unit for the purpose of rating its scenic quality. During these trips the units were discussed by the team and considerations of scale and visibility were decided using input from the aerial observation and points of observation in the field. On some occasions members of the local BLM office traveled with our teams and contributed to this effort. Very occasionally certain SQRU could not be entered; generally they were enclosed by locked gates, or were primitive areas without access. In these unusual circumstances the team attempted to gain visual access from adjacent areas and relied on aerial observations, aerial photographs and topographic maps to define the rating unit.

3. Field Verification - A management team (usually the Project Director and Project Manager) conducted low altitude flights and ground reconnaissance over all of the Resource Areas with a two-fold objective: 1) to review field inventory results (boundaries and ratings) and, 2) to become personally familiar with the Resource Area prior to conducting a visual sensitivity workshop.

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CLASSIFICATION

The various Scenic Quality Rating Units found within the Baxter/Douglas and Mt. Garfield Planning Units each fall into one of nine general landscape types.

These general types of landscapes have been defined physiographically based upon field observations, and information available on contour maps and aerial photographs.

The nine landscape types which have been defined include mountains, cliffs, ridges and narrow valleys, canyons, plateaus, rolling hills, broad valleys, riparian, and man-made lakes. Following are brief narrative descriptions of the landscape types found within the planning units.

Mountains within the two units are generally characterized by moderate to steeply sloping land at higher elevations. Mountains tend to be finger-like projections above and between many steep-walled canyons and are typically rugged with extensive areas of rock outcroppings. The mountainous areas end where the slopes fall dramatically, often vertically to many intervening canyons. High alpine ridges, broken talus slopes, and smoothly undulating slopes are also common to the mountainous terrain. Northfacing slopes tend to be densely forested with mixed alpine conifers and aspen, while south-facing slopes support a somewhat sparse cover of pines, pinyon and juniper.

The Book Cliffs comprise the second landscape type. These are generally characterized by nearly vertical, massive faces falling 600 to 1000 feet with little if any vegetative cover. The lower sections of these cliffs are primarily huge erosional deposits from the sedimentary cap rock. Due to a distinct edge definition between the surrounding rolling hills to the south and the cliffs themselves, the Book Cliffs are a dominant scenic element when viewed throughout Grand Valley.

Lands of intermediate elevation, lying above the valley floors and below the mountains are considered as areas of either "ridges and valleys" or "rolling hills." Ridge and valley areas are characterized by steeply sloping land which crests in sharply angular ridge lines. Significant rock outcrop areas are present along many of the slopes and numerous steep-walled valleys have been carved by the many intermittent streams which drain the area.

Areas of land which are gentler and more softly rounded than the rugged "ridge and narrow valley" areas have been classified as "rolling hills." These areas are characterized by gently sloping and undulating, mounded landforms which are often flanked by long and linear elevated benches or terraces. The vegetative cover along the hillsides ranges from extensive grasslands to scrubby stands of pinyon and juniper.

Several canyons have been noted within the planning units and are characterized by nearly vertical, precipitous walls which exhibit colorful bands of sedimentary rock. Flowing rivers or streams generally bisect the canyon floors and vegetation is comprised primarily of coniferous species which vary in density with the steepness of the canyon walls.

Broad, extensive areas of relatively flat land which are raised sharply above adjacent lands have been classified as plateaus. Various species of short grasses and extensive areas of sagebrush are common to these areas.

Broad valleys were considered to be wide, open expanses of relatively flat to gently sloping land which is bounded by ranges of hills or mountains. These areas are commonly covered by thick deposits of sediments which originated in

the surrounding mountains and typically support vegetative communities of short grasses and sagebrush. Significant agricultural activities are found in these valleys as well.

In the dry landscape of western Colorado, a major river is an important and dominant scenic resource. It is felt that a major river, such as the Colorado River, can be managed more efficiently as a unit unto itself rather than as a component of a larger unit such as a broad valley or an area of rolling hills. For this reason, land associated with a major river course was singled out and classified as a "riparian" landscape.

Highline Lake Rating Unit (016) contained a significant water body although it was not a dominant scenic feature. Because this lake is located within a rolling hills landscape, it received the classification of "Rolling Hills/ Man-made Lake".

There are a number of units that could be considered to fit more than one category. An example would be a rating unit composed of one or two mountains and many lesser ridges; this unit could be considered as either "mountains" or "ridges and narrow valleys." It was our purpose to generally classify the SQRU by the most characteristic physiographic feature; therefore, an area of many ridges and one or two lesser mountains would be typed as "ridges and narrow valleys."

The classification of SQRU by general types has been provided to give some indication of the diversity of the landscape within each planning unit.

CULTURAL MODIFICATION CRITERIA

Using the criteria prescribed in Section 24 of the BLM's Manual 8411 - "Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation," the field teams conducted an inventory of significant cultural modifications found within the Scenic Quality Rating Units. These modifications were then evaluated in regard to their overall effect on the visual quality of the landscape.

Cultural modifications can take the form of either visual intrusions or visual improvements. For purposes of this study the cultural modifications which were documented were those which were judged by the members of the field team to be visual intrusions, or adverse impacts upon the area's inherent scenic quality.

The specific cultural modifications which were signled out for documentation were those which strongly attracted attention or tended to become a dominant feature in the landscape. These conditions were defined in terms of the severity with which the particular modification contrasted with the natural components of the surrounding landscape. Changes in landform, water, or vegetation and the addition of structures were examined to determine the extent to which they contrasted with the basic form, line, color, and texture characteristic of the rating unit. If the overall contrast was considered to be significant, the modification was photographed, plotted on a map, and rated on the Cultural Modification Field Form.

The question of whether or not to document a cultural modification as a visual intrusion was also influenced by proximity to developed areas and the modifications scale, or size, within the SQRU as a whole.

When a particular land use or cultural modification (which would ordinarily be classified as a visual intrusion on the basis of its visual contrast) was located in an area strongly dominated by the influence of development, it was not documented as a visual intrusion and was considered to be part of the developed area. Trailer parks located on the outskirts of an urban area, for example, were not singled out though trailer parks in an area relatively free of development were.

In areas which were free of the overbearing visual influence of an urban development, scale was the factor which was used to determine which cultural modifications would be documented. Generally, large scale features were singled out while small-scale features were not. By way of example, fences were not documented though transmission lines were. Billboards weren't considered though junk yards were. The decision was highly subjective but not arbitrary.

General Types

As mentioned, the field teams were oriented toward documenting cultural modifications which created strong contrasts with the natural elements of the landscape. A general listing of the cultural modifications noted within the various planning units would include the following:

1) Dumps or trash areas.
2) Buildings and grounds of unusual size or use such as storage yards and refineries
3) Large gravel and/or borrow pits
4) Transmission towers and cuts through wooded slopes for tower construction and maintenance roads

5) Sewage lagoons
6) Gas drilling and pumping stations

These general intrusions are often repetitive within each planning unit and when identical intrusions such as transmission lines are present within an area, they are usually grouped together. Specific cultural intrusions and locations are described on the "Field Form for Modification Inventory and Feature Contrast Score."

SCENIC QUALITY RATING CRITERIA

The scenic quality rating is a relative indication of the visual quality of the landscape based on a systematic approach and analysis of the landscape elements. Considered are the physical landscape components of landform, vegetation, water and color; the relative scarcity or uniqueness of that particular landscape type within the region; the extent to which it has been altered by man and the degree to which lands in adjacent rating units enhance its overall visual quality. Each rating criteria receives a score according to established methodology as shown in Figure 1 taken from the BLM 8411 manual. The combined numerical total then determines one of three levels (A, B & C) of scenic quality.

Ratings were done within the context of the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau physiographic provinces.

Scenic Quality - Inventory and Evaluation Chart

SCENIC QUALITY
INVENTORY AND EVALUATION CHART

key factors	rating criteria and score		
landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires or massive rock outcrops, or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features present and interesting though not dominant or exceptional. 3	Low, rolling hills, foothills or flat valley bottoms. Interesting detail landscape features few or lacking. 1
vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. 5	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1
water	Clear and clean appearing, still, cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3	Absent, or present, but not noticeable. 0
color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3	Subtle color variations, contrast or interest; generally mute tones. 1
influence of adjacent scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. 3	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0
scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. 6	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. 2	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. 1
cultural modifications	Free from aesthetically undesirable or discordant sights and influences; or modifications add favorably to visual variety. 2	Scenic quality is somewhat depreciated by inharmonious intrusions, but not so extensive that the scenic qualities are entirely negated or modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. 0	Modifications are so extensive that scenic qualities are for the most part nullified or substantially reduced. -4

SCENIC QUALITY
A= 19-33
B= 12-18
C= 0-11

FIGURE 1

landform

Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Outstanding landforms may be monumental, as the Grand Canyon, the Sawtooth Mountain Range in Idaho, the Wrangell Mountain Range in Alaska, or they may be exceedingly artistic and subtle as certain badlands, pinnacles, arches and other extraordinary formations.

vegetation

Give primary consideration to the variety of patterns, forms, and textures created by plant life. Consider short-lived displays when they are known to be recurring or spectacular. Consider also smaller scale vegetational features which add striking and intriguing detail elements to the landscape; e.g., gnarled or windbeaten trees, joshua trees, etc.

water

That ingredient which adds movement or serenity to a scene. The degree to which water dominates the scene is the primary consideration in selecting the rating score.

color

Consider the overall color(s) of the basic components of the landscape (i.e., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.) as they appear during seasons or periods of high use. Key factors to use when in rating "color" are variety, contrast and harmony.

adjacent scenery

Degree to which scenery outside the scenery unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the rating unit. The distance which adjacent scenery will influence scenery within the rating unit will normally range from 0-5 miles, depending upon verticality of topography, vegetative cover and other such factors. This factor is generally applied to units which would normally rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent unit would enhance the visual quality and raise the score.

scarcity

This factor provides an opportunity to give added importance to one or all of the scenic features that appear to be relatively unique or rare within one physiographic region. There may also be cases where a separate evaluation of each of the key factors does not give a true picture of the overall scenic quality of an area. Often it is a number of not so spectacular elements in the proper combination that produces the most pleasing and memorable scenery - the scarcity factor can be used to recognize this type of area and give it the added emphasis it needs.

cultural modifications

Consider the impact of change on the visual quality of the characteristic landscape. Cultural modifications in the landform/water, vegetation and addition of structures should be considered and may detract from the scenery in the form of a negative intrusion or actually complement or improve the scenery quality of a unit. Be careful not to confuse interest with scenery quality. Rate accordingly.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

CRITERIA

The criteria and procedure used for determining visual sensitivity are those set forth in BLM's 8411 manual. Basically, this involves a two-part inventory and evaluation process consisting of: 1) determination of user volume and, 2) user attitudes toward change in the landscape. The results of these two independent analyses are combined according to established procedures and result in a determination of final visual sensitivity levels.

USE VOLUME

The collection of use volume data is to determine the number of people viewing the landscape at various locations. The greater the number of viewers in any given area, the greater the "exposure" it receives and the greater its sensitivity is said to be. Actual use volume is categorized into one of three levels (H, M, or L) according to the following criteria (BLM Manual 8411 31A1a):

		H		M		L
CRITERIA	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
(1) Use volume (total) use, no distinction between types) cars and trains	Segments of travel routes, use sites or population centers which receive 200,000 or more visits/yr. or more than 200 vehicles/day (ADT year round), or comparable degree of use on a seasonal basis.		Segments of travel routes, use sites or population centers which receive 20,000 to 200,000 visits/year or 20 to 200 vehicles per day (ADT year round), or a comparable degree of use on a seasonal basis.		Travel route segments with less than 20,000 visits/yr. or less than 20 vehicles/day (ADT year round).	
(2) Use volume - trails, rivers, water bodies, trams	20,000 or more visits/yr.		2000 - 20,000 visits/yr.		less than 2000 visits/yr.	

Travel routes or use areas of High or Moderate volume are considered to be Key Observation Points (KOPs). From these KOPs, the landscape can be seen (referred to as the "seen area") is mapped out to a maximum distance of 15 miles. The level of volume of that KOP (either High or Moderate) is then designated for the entire seen area around that KOP. Where an area can be seen from both a high volume KOP and a moderate volume KOP, the high designation is given.

Use data for this study was obtained through the BLM Area Offices, from the State Highway Department, county road departments, State Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Though somewhat variable in age, the data used, in all cases, was the most current available. Where notable data gaps occurred, the best estimate of the agency representative was used considering current use patterns and known use levels of adjacent roads/areas.

Seen areas were manually derived in the office through the use of topographic and raised relief maps. The results were reviewed and refined during the course of the study by the Project Manager and other members of the study team.

USER ATTITUDES

Data on user attitudes toward change is collected in order to determine the extent of public concern for various lands within the planning unit and specifically, their attitudes toward visual modification of the landscape. It is the only point in the inventory process where public input is considered.

The procedure used in this analysis was a somewhat modified version of the "Extensive" (low level) procedure set forth in BLM Manual 8411. Basically, it involves a workshop format with selected representatives of various agencies, private interests and public interest groups. They are asked to respond to a variety of possible landscape modifications within specific landscape units which are based on the Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU). These responses are then evaluated by qualitative means to determine a high, moderate or low level of sensitivity for each rating area.

With this general direction from the BLM 8411 manual it was first necessary to determine the specific data needs and a format for obtaining this information. In order to determine user response to change it was decided to obtain a comprehensive list of the generic types of change possible on BLM lands. These were then grouped into seven major over categories based on similarities in their visual effect on the landscape, e.g. landform, vegetation and/or structure modification. Only those specific generic types within each category that are appropriate to a given Resource Area are presented to workshop participants. In some cases an entire over-category was deleted if inappropriate or unlikely in that Resource Area.

As a context within which to judge these responses it was decided that participants should, at the outset, indicate the relative sensitivity or value they placed on the visual resource of each rating area. For this purpose, participants were asked to indicate the level of protection that should be given to the visual resource. One of five levels were presented as options: Preservation, High Protection, Moderate Protection, Low Protection or Rehabilitation. These were intended to generally correspond with the five

VRM Management Classes. A workshop rating form was then developed around these data needs on a rating unit basis (see Figure 2). In addition, an accompanying instruction sheet was developed that also included a space for participants to indicate any specific issues, projects or areas of concern visually (see Figure 3). These responses were primarily for the benefit of the Area Manager and not factored into final ratings.

To determine a list of workshop participants Wirth Associates first met with BLM representatives to develop a generic list of types of interest or agency input desired. The following general types of input were decided upon: federal, state and local (county and city) agency representation (including administrative, design and planning representatives); conservation organizations; cattlemen, mining and utility representation; off-road vehicle, guide and ski type recreation representation; and Chamber of Commerce and "average citizen" representation. From this generic list, the BLM District and/or Area Office selected specific representatives for each category. Both a preliminary letter of notification and a follow-up letter were composed by Wirth Associates and sent from the Area Office to each selected representative (example following page 22). This was followed by a personal phone reminder by an Area Office BLM representative prior to the meeting.

The Project Director and Project Manager made a flight over the study area two days prior to the workshop to review scenic quality rating unit boundaries and ratings, to become personally familiar with the study area prior to the workshop, and to determine whether or not certain rating units should be further subdivided or combined for purposes of the workshop. Final visual sensitivity workshop rating unit maps and forms were then prepared on this basis.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA SHEET

PARTICIPANT ____________________

REPRESENTING ____________________

DATE ____________________

____________________ RESOURCE AREA ____________________ PLANNING UNIT

RATING AREA		DESIRED VISUAL	USER REACTION TO VISUAL CHANGE BY:						
Name	No.	MGMT. CLASS	Landform-1	Landform-2	Landf./Veg.-1	Landf./Veg.-2	Vegetation	Veg./Struct.	Structures

P - Preservation
HP - High Protection
MP - Moderate Protection
LP - Low Protection
R - Rehabilitation

H - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a strong negative reaction.

M - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a moderate negative reaction.

L - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a low adverse reaction.

+ = Visual change by this type of activity would have a positive effect on the landscape.

CATEGORIES OF VISUAL CHANGE

Landform-1

- Resource Extraction (mining)
- Landfill
- Gravel Operations

Landform-2

- Dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

- Roads
- Pipelines
- ORV Use
- Rail Spurs

Vegetation

- Timber Harvest
- Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
- Burning

Vegetation/Structures-1

- Power Lines
- Tramways
- Reflectors/Repeators
- Substations

Structures

- Residential
- Hwy. Rest Stop
- Visitor Center

FIGURE 2

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA SHEET

EXPLANATION AND CONTINUATION

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

In filling out the workshop form, please respond from the point of view of the public sector or agency you represent rather than from your personal point of view. This will enable us to better analyze the broad spectrum of public attitudes.

Relationship to the Area:

From the list supplied, indicate the type of use each area is best suited to from your group or agency's point of view. Where code letters include more than one specific type of use, specify which type is most appropriate (e.g. "RE - coal mining").

Value Placed on Scenic Quality:

From your group or agency's point of view, indicate the degree of value placed on scenic quality in each area in terms of H, M or L value.

Desired Visual Management Class:

This is to be a further indication of the value of scenic quality to the group or agency in terms of the level of management you feel should be exercised for scenic values within the area. "Preservation" would restrict all activities which would noticeably alter the landscape. "Rehabilitation" is an indication that from your group or agency's point of view, the area is already visually degraded and needs some level of corrective measures.

User Reaction to Visual Change:

The categories of visual change listed below are intended to represent generic types of management actions which would lead to similar kinds of visual change. They are not intended to represent specific management proposals.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding,etc.)
Burning

FIGURE 3

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power lines
Tramways
Reflectors/repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant__________________________

Date_______________________________

The workshop format followed the following basic outline:

- A. Introduction (BLM Area Manager)
  - Relationship of this study to the overall Area planning effort
- B. Study overview and background (Wirth Associates)
- C. VRM program overview (Wirth Associates)
- D. Slide overview of rating areas within the Resource Area (Wirth Associates)
- E. Slide examples of various possible generic landscape modifications (Wirth Associates)
- F. Participant ratings on a rating unit by rating unit basis (facilitated by Wirth Associates)
- G. Participant narratives on specific issues or projects of concern (facilitated by Wirth Associates).

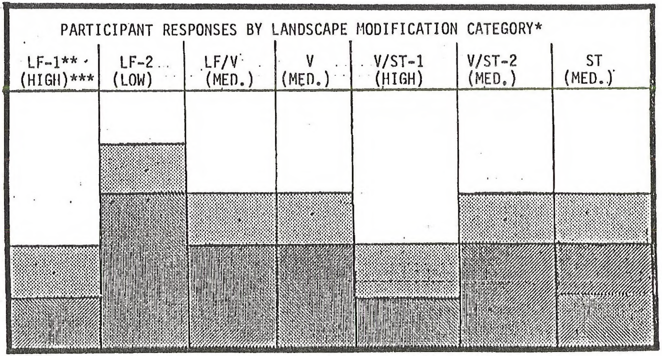
Following the workshop, an initial analysis of the results was made by Wirth Associates which led to a preliminary overall user attitude rating of Low, Moderate or High for each rating unit. Initially, each form was reviewed to determine whether or not the results would be utilized. Forms were considered invalid if it were apparent that the participant was confused about the information requested or made no distinction between rating areas or types of change (e.g. rated all possible actions for all rating areas the same).

Where ratings were ambiguous but a reasonable assumption could be made as to the intended response changes were made and documented on the rating form. Partially completed forms were utilized if responses appeared consistent and an understanding of the desired information was apparent by the responses given.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT ______________________

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES	Desired Mgmt. Class	
Workshop Rating Unit:	HIGH	P	
		HP	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	
	LOW	LP	
		R	



Final Rating: ______________________

Rationale: ______________________

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

FIGURE 4

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

Valid forms were qualitatively evaluated and tallied by the same review team according to a rating form specially designed for this purpose (see Figure 4). According to this form, responses to Desired Management Class are totaled and compared to totals for responses to various categories of landscape change. Where there was a difference for a rating area between the overall level of protection designated through the Desired Management Class and the overall level of sensitivity toward change, a preliminary H/M or M/L designation was given.

Once the preliminary analysis was complete, a follow-up meeting was held with the Area Manager and appropriate members of his staff to review the results. An explanation of the preliminary analysis procedure was presented and reviewed. Following this, each summary and analysis form was reviewed with the Area Office personnel. Borderline H/M and M/L ratings were resolved at this time based on intensity of responses, consistency of thought, overall trends, specific participant responses, amount of BLM land in the rating area, user types and trends in the area and specific issues surrounding the area. In addition, if the Area Manager and staff felt that, based on the above considerations, participant responses clearly did not reflect the true level of sensitivity for a given area, they raised or lowered the rating. In all cases, a written rationale was prepared in the space provided on each summary and analysis form (Figure 4) which documented the basis for the final rating.

The tally sheets were designed for easy visualization of trends. The following assumptions were made in its design:

- Management Class ratings can be grouped into levels of High, Medium or Low value (an exception is the Rehabilitation category which is sometimes given because of a high concern - when this occurs, ratings to various landscape modifications would expectedly be higher than where little concern exists).

- Landscape modification categories have different intensities and are identified as High, Medium and Low.

- Gray levels represent the general intensity of ratings expected based on the following premise: it is expected that if an impact of moderate intensity is proposed for an area about which the participant feels a moderate value, his/her expected response would be of a moderate adverse nature. Also, it is expected that the same impact would be rated as high by those who felt the landscape to be of high value and rated low by those who rated the landscape low. If true, it would follow that a low intensity impact would be rated high only if the respondent felt the area should be preserved and likewise a high intensity impact would expectedly result in a high adverse rating on both high and moderate value lands.

IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Resource Area Headquarters
Federal Building
701 Camino del Rio
Durango, Colorado 81301

SUBJECT: BLM Colorado Visual Resource Inventory Workshop,
Cortez, Colorado, January 25, 1979

Dear Sir:

As a part of an ongoing effort to prepare a resource inventory of public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of directing an inventory of the visual resources for approximately 8.5 million acres within Colorado. Portions of all four BLM districts in Colorado will be involved in this inventory -- Canon City, Grand Junction, Montrose and Craig. The inventory will cover all lands within certain Planning Units (PU) in the following BLM Resource Areas (RA):

CANON CITY DISTRICT
  Royal Gorge RA
  Northeast RA

MONTROSE DISTRICT
  San Juan RA
    Sacred Mountain PU
  Uncompahgre Basin RA

GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT
  Glenwood Springs RA

CRAIG DISTRICT
  Little Snake River RA
  Kremmling RA

The attached map shows the general locations of these BLM Districts and Resource Areas.

Wirth Associates, Inc., a landscape architecture and planning firm, has been retained by the BLM to conduct this visual resource inventory in Colorado. A series of workshops with representatives of federal, state and local agencies, and special interest groups will be held within each Resource Area as a part of the effort. Public concerns for changes to the visual quality within each Resource Area will be the focus of these meetings.

A workshop will be held in the San Juan Resource Area (that portion highlighted on the attached map) at Cortez on Thursday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to participate at this meeting and share with

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us your insight and understanding of public concerns to visual changes occurring or possibly occurring to landscapes within the Resource Area. Be sure and put this date on your calendar.

With your assistance, we can more responsively manage the visual resources on public lands.

Additional information will be provided concerning the location, format, and specific content of the workshop at Cortez. A BLM representative will be contacting you concerning this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry D. Kendrick

Jerry D. Kendrick
Area Manager,
San Juan Resource Area

IN REPLY REFER TO

March 3, 1849

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Resource Area Headquarters
Federal Building
701 Camino del Rio
Durango, Colorado 81301

SUBJECT: Visual Resource Management Workshop

Dear Sir:

This follow-up letter is to remind you of the workshop being held at Cortez, Empire Electric Dan Hunter Room, 801 N. Broadway, on January 25, 1979, at 10:00 a.m. as part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) comprehensive planning effort. As indicated in the previous letter, the purpose of this workshop is to gain public input on questions of change in the visual quality of the landscape resulting from a variety of possible land management actions. The data obtained from this workshop is a key aspect in the overall Visual Resource Management (VRM) inventory and analysis process. As such, it plays an important role in the determination of final visual quality standards for the various BLM lands within the Resource Area. The scope of this workshop, however, is not limited to Bureau lands since BLM land management actions would visually affect adjacent lands. Rather, consideration will be given to all lands within the Resource Area regardless of ownership.

The workshop will be jointly facilitated by the BLM and Wirth Associates who have been contracted by the Bureau to conduct visual inventory and analysis studies on selected lands in Colorado. The format will be as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- Resource Area planning effort
- Purpose of the workshop

ORIENTATION

- VRM program overview - use of VRM data
- Slide overview of the Planning Unit

DATA INPUT

- Your desired visual standards for various lands within the Resource Area (e.g. preservation; high, moderate or low protection; or rehabilitation).

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Save Energy and You Serve America!

- Your reaction to visual change on various lands resulting from the following types of land management alterations:

  Landform-1

  Resource Extraction (mining)
  Landfill
  Gravel Operations

  Landform-2

  Dams/water impoundments

  Landform/Vegetation

  Roads
  Pipelines
  ORV Use
  Rail Spurs

  Vegetation

  Timber Harvest
  Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
  Burning

  Vegetation/Structures-1

  Power Lines
  Tramways
  Reflectors/Repeators
  Substations

  Structures

  Residential
  Hwy. Rest Stop
  Visitor Center

  (This portion will not be issue or project oriented but rather consider only generic landscape changes which may take place over the next few years).

- Your narrative discussion of specific land management issues or projects of concern to you.

Individual rating forms will be provided so that after discussion of topics or areas with others at your table you may make your response privately. In order to complete the presentation and record your input in the two hours alloted, however, it is essential that we adhere closely to the topics and format described above without discussion of your views on specific local issues or projects. We do desire this information, however, and the final phase of the program will be devoted to recording them.

As a selected spokesman for a particular user or interest group, your input to this workshop is key because of the public sector you represent. Without

your presence, their important viewpoint may not be given adequate consideration. This personal, additional reminder is intended to represent an indication of the level of importance the Bureau places on the visual resource and its consideration in future land management planning and decision making. It is also intanded to indicate the importance we put on your input in the final determination of VRM standards for Bureau lands within the San Juan Resource Area.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry D. Kendrick

Jerry D. Kendrick
Area Manager,
San Juan Resource Area

FINAL SENSITIVITY

The Final Sensitivity Rating is the result of the combination of use volume sensitivity and user attitudes sensitivity according to the following matrix taken from the BLM Manual (8411.31A4):

user attitude	quantity of use	
H	H	HIGH SENSITIVITY
H	M	
M	H	
H	L	
L	H	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY
M	M	
M	L	
L	M	LOW SENSITIVITY
L	L	

The process used is a mechanical one in which the two preliminary sensitivity maps are overlain and the final sensitivity rating for any given area is determined simply by the particular conditions of the two preliminary ratings. When very small islands of land resulted (less than 1/2 mile wide) that had a rating different from the adjacent land, a decision was made to give it the designation of the adjacent land with which it had the most similarity from a management standpoint.

DISTANCE ZONES

CRITERIA

Distance Zone classifications are used to indicate the relative detail that is perceived in natural and man-made features on the landscape. The closer an object is to the viewer the greater the detail in which it is perceived and the greater is its perceived scale in relation to the surrounding landscape. Therefore, a landscape modification near the viewer would have a greater negative visual effect than the same modification seen further away.

Distance Zone categories as defined in the BLM VRM system include the following: Foreground/Middleground - from viewer location to 3-5 miles; Background = from 3-5 miles to approximately 15 miles; and Seldom Seen = beyond the approximate 15 mile limit. The Seldom Seen designation is also applied to areas that because of topographic screening are unseen from any designated viewer location.

The criteria and procedure used for delineating distance zones are those set forth in BLM;s 8411 manual. This procedure first involves the determination of Key Observer Points (KOPs). These points are the same as those used for the visual sensitivity - use volume study (see use volume methodology narrative preceeding).

From these points (or travel routes) a "seen area analysis" (see visual sensitivity - use volume narrative) is conducted. All lands that can be seen from that point or travel corridor out to a distance of 3-5 miles are labeled as Foreground/Middleground. All lands that can be seen from that point or corridor between 3-5 miles and 15 miles are labeled as Background. All lands that are beyond 15 miles from any KOP or are unseen from any KOP are labeled as Seldom Seen. Where overlaps of these zones occur (from 2 or more KOPs) the closer zone is designated.

For this study use volume information was taken from various sources, as indicated in the visual sensitivity - use volume narrative. A manual seen area analysis was conducted from the moderate and high volume points/ corridors in the office from topographic and raised relief maps. Appropriate distance zone designations were then made. This preliminary distance zone map was then taken to the field by the scenic quality inventory team for verification. Revisions were made accordingly.

BAXTER/DOUGLAS P.V.

Grand Jct. Resource Area
" " District

BAXTER/DOUGLAS PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING

The Baxter/Douglas Planning Unit encompasses 296,000 acres of land 18 miles northwest of Grand Junction. The planning unit is bordered by a short segment of the Colorado River to the south, Baxter and Douglas Pass to the north, the Colorado-Utah state line on the west and the Mt. Garfield Planning Unit on the east.

Within the planning unit topography is varied. Deeply incised canyons, ridges, narrow valleys, rolling hills, and the Book Cliffs serve as transitional landforms between Grand Valley and the mountainous areas to the north.

The mountains bordering the northern edge of this planning unit range from 7400 feet to 8600 feet in elevation and are relatively inaccessible. Baxter Pass (8400 feet) and Douglas Pass (8400 feet) are two points of access and egress.

Snow, rainfall and erosion continue to play an important role in the landscape by carving deeply incised canyons that occur between "finger like" projections of ridges. Dramatic vertical walls, exposed and colorful strata, and highly eroded rock formations are characteristic of the many canyons interspersed throughout this mountain environment. Most notable of these are Prairie Canyon, West Salt Creek and South Canyons, and Trail Canyon, all draining the mountain watersheds from the north to Grand Valley in the southern part of the planning unit.

The Book Cliffs form a distinct boundary separating the mountains and canyons of the north from the lower rolling hills and Grand Valley of the south. Consisting of an extensive series of angular, often vertical, highly stratified sedimentary rock, these cliffs are extraordinary due to contrasting form, color, and texture. Topographic differences from 600 feet to 1000 feet make these dramatic cliffs a dominant scenic feature visible throughout the Grand Valley.

The Grand Valley and encircling low rolling hills constitute the southern half of the planning unit. The Book Cliffs to the north and plateaus to the south add a sense of scale and visually define the parameters of this large area.

Two major creeks drain the planning unit. Salt Creek and McDonald Creek empty into a short segment of the Colorado River which flows through the Ruby Canyon and constitutes the southern boundary of the planning unit. Major tributaries to East and West Salt Creek include Barrell Spring Creek, Prairie Canyon Creek, South Canyon Creek, and Trail Canyon Creek. Six and Fifty Reservoir located in the southern section of the planning unit is not a dominant scenic element due to its small size.

Vegetation is varied. Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine are found at higher elevations on both northern and southern aspects. Aspen and spruce occupy middle slopes. Pinyon-Juniper and scrub oak associations are common to all areas except Grand Valley and the rolling hills north and west. A variety of grasses and small shrubs occupy all of the lower areas south of the Book Cliffs and valley bottoms with willows and cottonwoods along the watercourses.

Major east-west travel routes include Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 6 which pass through the southern part of this unit. State Highway 139 is the major north-south route over Douglas Pass.

No urban areas exist within the unit and development consists of rural farmland with scattered residences throughout the southern part of the unit. A number of natural gas drilling and pumping stations are located north of the Book Cliffs. Several active drilling sites contribute a negative but temporary influence on scenic quality.

TABLE 1

SQRU GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES & SUMMARY
PLANNING UNIT: BAXTER/DOUGLAS

GENERAL TYPE KEY

Mountains	M	Rolling Hills	RH
Ridges and Narrow Valleys	R&NV	Broad Valleys	BV
Canyons	C	Cliffs	CL
Plateaus	P	Riparian Area	RA
		Man-Made Lake	MML

SQRU NO.	NAME	GENERAL TYPE	
001	Ruby Canyon	Canyon/Riparian Area	(C/RA)
002	Rabbit Canyon	Rolling Hills	(RH)
003	Baxter Pass	Mountains	(M)
004	West Salt Creek Canyon	Canyon	(C)
005	Prairie Canyon	Canyon	(C)
006	Douglas Pass	Mountains	(M)
007	Demaree Canyon	Ridge & Narrow Valley	(R&NV)
008	Book Cliffs	Cliffs	(CL)
009	East Prairie Canyon	Ridges & N. Valley	(R&NV)
010	East Salt Creek Canyon	Canyon	(C)
011	Long Point	Mountains	(M)
012	Book Cliff Hills	Rolling Hills	(RH)
013	Grand Valley	Broad Valley	(BV)
014	McDonald Creek	Broad Valley	(BV)
015	South Interstate	Plateaus	(P)
020	Horsethief Canyon	Canyon/Riparian Area	(C/RA)
021	Upper Bowls	Mountains	(M)
022	Unit Divide	Mountains	(M)

TABLE 2

DISTRICT: GRAND JUNCTION

RESOURCE AREA: GRAND JUNCTION

PLANNING UNIT: BAXTER/DOUGLAS

SQRU			RATING CRITERIA						TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
001	Ruby Canyon	4	2	5	4	0	5	2	22	A
002	Rabbit Canyon	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	15	B
003	Baxter Pass	4	4	1	3	3	2	2	19	A
004	West Salt Creek Canyon	4	3	1	3	1	1	0	13	B
005	Prairie Canyon	4	3	2	3	1	2	-2	12	B
006	Douglas Pass	4	4	1	3	3	2	2	19	A
007	Demaree Canyon	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	14	B
008	Book Cliffs	5	1	0	4	3	6	2	21	A
009	East Prairie Canyon	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	13	B
010	East Salt Creek Canyon	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	21	A
011	Long Point	4	4	1	3	3	2	2	19	A
012	Book Cliff Hills	2	2	1	2	4	1	1	13	B
013	Grand Valley	1	3	2	3	2	1	-2	10	C
014	McDonald Creek	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	11	C
015	South Interstate	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	12	B
020	Horsethief Canyon	3	2	5	4	0	5	2	21	A
021	Upper Bowls	2	3	0	3	3	2	2	15	B
022	Unit Divide	3	3	0	3	3	1	2	16	B

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Three rating units within the Baxter/Douglas Planning Unit (001-Ruby Canyon, 008 Book Cliffs and 020 Horsethief Canyon) have been identified as potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by virtue of the fact that they represent Class A scenery and have received a rating of 5 or 6 in regard to their relative scarcity within the region.

These rating units represent areas of extraordinary scenic quality and require special management attention to insure preservation of the qualities which make them exceptional.

The rating criteria for these units appear below.

SQRU		RATING CRITERIA							TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
001	Ruby Canyon	4	2	5	4	0	5	2	22	A
008	Book Cliffs	5	1	0	4	3	6	2	21	A
020	Horsethief Canyon	3	2	5	4	0	5	2	21	A

001 - Ruby Canyon - In this region a river as large as the Colorado is a relatively unique landscape element. The canyon itself which contains a variety of contrasting elements combines with the large water feature to create a variety of spatial experiences in this interesting, dynamic landscape.

008 - Book Cliffs - The Book Cliffs are a visually dominant landscape feature when viewed throughout the Grand Valley. This highly eroded and disected landform creates interesting shadow and color contrasts. The extensiveness of these cliffs make them unique to the region.

020 - Horsethief Canyon - This unit is very similar to (001) Ruby Canyon. The principal difference is that the canyon walls are somewhat less dramatic and lack continuity. Horsethief Canyon also combines a variety of contrasting elements which create a variety of interesting spatial experiences.

District Grand Junction

Date 12/10/78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM
CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 001 - Ruby Canyon

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 29,30

Time of Day 11:30 a.

Weather Partly Cloudy

Landscape Character: Canyon/Riparian

General Narrative: This area is a fairly steep-walled canyon cut by the Colorado River exhibiting the distinctive and colorful banded sedimentary geology characteristic of many eroded canyons in the Colorado plateau. Vegetation is rather limited along the steep precipitious canyon walls though dense stands of willows and other riparian vegetation are located along the banks of the river where it is wider. The river itself is the most dominant feature here. Water is an important resource for agricultural and recreational interests and this area is highly used for river floating. The Horsethief Canyon section is free of any apparent development and as such, is rather rare. The Ruby Canyon section is paralleled by Denver & Rio Grande western railroad tracks with an associated wood pole telephone line but are largely unseen from the river due to their location on an elevated bench.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-steep canyon
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	5-Colorado River
4	Color	5	3	1	4-vivid
5	Influence	5	3	0	0-enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	5-see narrative
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-some

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
001	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 10, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 002-Rabbit Valley

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 29-36
2 18-22

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather sunny, cold

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Rabbit Valley is an area of broken terrain, characterized by intermittent watercourses, rock outcrops, rough-angular hills that appear as small mesas, and thick sandstone formations. Through hydrological processes the sandstone has been sculptured into 60-foot tall smooth curving walls in some areas. In other areas isolated cone-like peaks have been left standing.

Considerable vegetation lends interest to this angular terrain. Pinyon, Juniper, a number of shrubs and wild grasses support numerous small animals and deer. One large hawk was spotted perched in a tall Juniper.

Adjacent scenery has little influence but sculptured "castle rocks" on nearby ridge tops are interesting.

Little water is obvious but again large flows must have been constant at one time to carve out the sandstone formations. The Colorado River abutts this unit but was not accessible to us at this time.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-varied
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	2-deep channels
4	Color	5	3	1	3-red, browns
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-none
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = B (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 002

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 10, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 003-Baxter Pass

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 12

Time of Day 10:00 a.m.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: This mountain environment borders the northwestern corner of the Baxter/Douglas Resource Area. It is generally moderately sloping in the lower portions of the mountains (7200 - 8000'), but rises sharply above 8000' to the divide of the mountain peaks. Baxter Mountain at 8716', and Tavaputs Peak at 8786' are the two most prominent mountain peaks in this small but often dramatic range. These mountains contain a series of micro watersheds that drain into two steep narrow canyons, West Salt Creek Canyon or on Prairie Canyon. The mountain peaks are dramatic because of their high vertical relief, and the interesting eroded sedimentary rock formations vegetation is scattered among these rock outcrops, consisting of Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Scrub Oak, shrubs and grasslands. At this time we were unable to get into this unit due to heavy snowfall on Baxter Pass although we are certain that views are quite extensive and influence this area because of the adjacent scenery. We did see a radio tower atop Baxter Pass, but are unable to determine the extent of the facilities, and if these impair the scenic quality of the site.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-mountains
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-variety
3	Water	5	3	0	1-little, snow
4	Color	5	3	1	3-vegetation
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-panoramic
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-fairly distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-rare

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
003	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 10, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 004-West Salt Creek

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 5,6,7,8,9,10,11, 13,15,16,17

Time of Day 8:00 a.m.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: Salt Creek intermittently cuts a steep walled meandering course through a somewhat broad canyon floor, the largest and central canyon of a branching series of canyons off either side. Rising some 200-300 feet from the horizontal floor, the canyon walls contain a number of horizontal rock bands of various width and general color combinations of sand, pink and straw yellow. The canyon is a river eroded area of uplifted, straited sedimentary layers supporting a few varieties of vegetation including Juniper, Pinyon, small shrubs, occasional Scrub Oak and wild grasses. Unusual formations are created by micro-erosional patterns within the rock and appear as smooth holes with an occasional "webbed" joining of several holes of various sizes. The vegetation provides abundant forages for deer, rabbit and birds. Many animal signs were noted and two large flocks of small birds were sighted feeding on seeds. The canyon appears as a series of large steps once the initial height is reached. A significant number of natural gas pumping stations have been constructed in this area and through their numbers have made a noticeable but not major impact within this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-steep walls
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	1-little
4	Color	5	3	1	3-vegetative, rocks
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-canyon
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-gas wells

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 004

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 12, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 005-Prairie Canyon

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 28-34

Time of Day 10:00 a.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Canyons

General Narrative: This area is a steep walled narrow canyon containing massive, dramatic sedimentary rock outcrops of varying size and shapes, and appearing like a series of stairs to the higher mountains above this canyon. The narrow curvilinear valley floor with deeply incised water coarses creates a variety of spatial experiences, all with the feeling of self containment. The erosional patterns are very interesting in both the macro and micro scale. Both scales illustrate nature's powerful forces that created this canyon, causing many pitted, irratic, blocky, and vertical forms, varying textures, colors and lines. The vegetation is not a dominant landscape element, although pinyon-juniper, scrub oak, and a variety of sages and grasses occupy the canyon floor and sidewalls.

Though this canyon is very natural by itself, it has been disrupted by man's search for natural gas, evidenced by many gas wells, pumping stations, and operations equipment which are located throughout this canyon. These intrusions are numerous and located adjacent to the roadway reducing the naturalness and scenic quality of this area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-dramatic
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	2-deep channel
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-none
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2 -Gas sites

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 005
Final Ratin B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 11, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 006-Douglas Pass

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 12,13,14,17, 18 & 19

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather clear, cold 0°F

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: The northern boundary of this planning unit is a series of mountains generally 8500 feet plus in elevation which make up the rating unit The mountains are angular, generally steep slopes, moderately to heavily covered in a number of trees from Aspen, Scrub Oak, Pines, Juniper, and many varieties of shrubs. Numerous rock outcrops of light grey, yellow-grey, and occasional salmon colored limestones, sandstones and shales mark the slopes.

Views from the mountains are panoramic in most directions and extend many miles north and south. The juxtaposition of numerous canyons, valleys and ridges offers interesting contrast and a play of light and shadows, bright and muted color and unusual corridors of defined spatial sequences.

No cultural intrusions exist in this somewhat uncommon unit.

Geologically this area displays visible stratification in heavily eroded terrain creating "V" shaped valleys topped in a harder, more resistant cap stone, and consist of entirely horizontal sedimentary formations.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-steep mountains
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-diverse
3	Water	5	3	0	1-snow, little
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-panoramic
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-fairly distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 006

Final Rating A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 007-Demaree Canyon

Film: Roll # Frame #
unable to photograph

Time of Day 11:30 a.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Ridges, Narrow Valleys & Canyon

General Narrative: This is a large rating unit of natural landscape, it consists of a series of ridges, steep valleys and/or small canyons. Most of it is moderately to sparsely covered in Pinyon-Juniper forest.

Viewing it from several aspects of its periphery on the ground combined with aerial flights shows the area like fingers of a hand pointing generally south. Elevations range from 6600 to 7600 on its high ground and drop to some 5200 or 5300 feet on its outside edges. The 2000 feet of elevation consists of sharply edged ridges and steep drainageways.

The southern edge of these high points become the Book Cliffs and are a rating area in themselves.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-varied
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	1-little
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-mostly enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 14 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Le

SQRU	Final Ra
007	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-11-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 008 - Book Cliffs

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 1,2,18,19,20
2 26,27,28
3 1-5, 25,26,35,36

Time of Day 4:15 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Cliffs and Ridges

General Narrative: The Book Cliffs are a very extensive series of highly angular, often vertical, sedimentary rock. Having been strongly eroded, these cliffs have a diversity of forms including sharp pointed ridges, "V" shaped valleys, abrupt angles and angular slopes. The Cliffs immediately north of Grand Junction are apparently more resistant to erosion and appear as a massive, blocky wall which terminates at Mt. Garfield.

Distinct wide horizontal bands of various shades of pink, light greys, reds, and red-browns with an occasional dark grey to black shale line these expansive slopes.

The Book Cliffs are a well-defined edge between the adjacent valley to the south, and to the mass of ridges and narrow valleys to the north. Rising 1000 feet above the valley floor, they offer a distinct contrast and become a dominant scenic element viewed throughout the valley.

Though mostly barren, the Book Cliffs do support a widely scattered, sparse population of pinyon and juniper. The natural, untouched character of this landscape, its relative scarcity, and its visual interest make the Book Cliffs an outstanding feature and a prominent visual influence throughout this planning unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	5 - diverse
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1 - little
3	Water	5	3	0	0 - none
4	Color	5	3	1	4 - variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	3 - contrasting
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	6 - unique
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2 - none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 008
Final Rating A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 10, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 009-East Prairie Canyon

Film: Roll # Frame # none

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Ridges, Valleys & Canyons

General Narrative: See Rating Unit 007.

This is an intermediate area between the higher slopes and mountains and the steep edges called Book Cliffs. It is very similar to 007.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-varied
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some variety
3	Water	5	3	0	1-little
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-mostly enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-none

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
009	B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date December 11, 1978

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 010 - E. Salt Creek Canyon

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 7,8,9,10,11,12, 13 & 15

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather clear 0°F

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This canyon consists of steep, angular walls of massive sedimentary formations and include numerous bands of various colored rock in a number of elevations. The color ranges from medium gray to light grey, salmon to a burnt red, and yellow-grey to thin layers of yellow-green. Numerous species of trees line both water and the canyon floor and include cedar, pine, juniper, cottonwood, and thick carpets of tall shrubs. Deeply incised creek drainages, often 30 feet deep and 50 feet wide, meander through the canyon floor and are joined by similar creeks leading from a number of smaller side canyons.

Looking north there are many views of adjacent mountains which create a distinct visual terminus for the canyon. Higher up the canyon walls the character becomes a massive stair-stepped configuration opening up the area to extremely large spacial definitions.

This is a highly scenic canyon, generally natural, often with running water (currently frozen over) and contains many highly eroded honeycombed rock walls of micro-erosional patterns.

It is one of the more scenic canyons in an area of many canyons.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-very angular
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-large variety
3	Water	5	3	0	3-semi-dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	4-seasonal, variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	2-short duration
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-common, yet distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	+2-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
010	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 011 - Long Point

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Film: Roll # 3

Frame # 16

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: This series of mountains are uniform in height at approximately 8500 feet. Steep angular side slopes, and massive rock outcrops are commonly found within this area. A number of small creeks drain these mountains toward either Big Salt Wash to the east or East Salt Creek to the west.

Fir and Pine trees are located along many of the ridges in a patchwork design, often thickly clustered and occasionally very sparse. Along the lower slopes, dense stands of scrub oak, pinyon and juniper are present, intermixed with a low scrubby cover of sage.

Views are panoramic in all directions from this near pristine landscape. Few trails have been located in this area.

The uniformity of these crests make then appear mesa-like when viewed from a distance.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-mountainous
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not prominent
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-fairly distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
011	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 012 - Book Cliff Hills

Film: Roll # 1 Frame #2,3,4,21-23,25,28
2 26,27,28
3 20,21,23,35,36

Time of Day 10:00 a.m.

Weather mostly sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: The hills at the base of the Book Cliffs are an area of transition between the valley floor and the cliffs which rise to the north. The unit contains expanses of wide flat land, but its central and most striking features are the heavily dissected areas of low frequently repeating rounded hills which are defined by a dense network of incised drainages. Intermittent streams are created to carry fluvial material southward across the valley floor to the Colorado River. The rhythmic pattern of the landscape is extraordinary and is further emphasized by a low sun angle early and late in the day when shadows intensify. The area's vegetation is dominated by an extensive cover of sagebrush and grasses. Color is therefore muted but serves as a subtle contrast to the vivid colors displayed in the Book Cliffs. The strong contrast of light and shadows adds to the unit's color. The adjacent Book Cliffs add significantly to the scenery of these hills. There is little cultural modification throughout the unit. Because of its landform this unit is viewed as an unusual and distinctive landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-repeating hills
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-little diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not prominent
4	Color	5	3	1	2-subtle
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-Book Cliffs
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-minor

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rati
012	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 013 - Grand Valley

Time of Day 12:00

Film: Roll # 1 - Frame # 26, 27
2 1-7
3 22, 24

Weather partly cloudy

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: The Grand Valley is a sixty-mile long broad valley landscape stretching from Grand Junction, Colorado and into Utah. This unit is just a portion of the entire valley. It spans a 30-mile distance from Grand Junction in the southeast of the Mt. Garfield Planning Unit into the eastern edge of the Baxter/Douglas Unit. A majority of this area is seen as a flat, level surface but isolated areas of flat-topped or low rolling hills stand out as prominent features along the valley floor. The cliffs and hills to both the north and south help to define this unit. Agricultural modification and associated rural development dominate the valley here and therefore many of its characteristics. Vegetation includes many varied crops and fruit orchards. Many shade trees surround individual homesites. Also man-made canals and natural waterways, extensive road systems and fence rows support tree and shrub associations of cottonwoods, willows and other species. Although it is not a dominant visual feature, a number of tiny reservoirs and water courses indicate an intense association with water.

Color is seasonably variable, changing with the crops. Both the Book Cliffs to the north and the cliffs of the Colorado National Monument enhance the scenic quality of the unit.

Grand Junction is the major urban center in this region, located at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. Palisade, Fruita, Loma, Mack, Clifton and others serve as local community centers throughout the valley. From these centers, especially Grand Junction, intense urban development sprawls out into the rural setting often making it difficult to tell where the city ends and the countryside begins. I-70, the railroad tracks and the area near the

(over)

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-agriculture
3	Water	5	3	0	2-canals
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	2-Book Cliffs, CNM
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2 - sprawl

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 013
Final Ratin C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 014 McDonald Creek

Film: Roll # 1 Frame# 24

2 8-17

3 24,27

Time of Day 8:00

Weather clear/cold

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: Consisting of a broad valley this unit has little change in elevation with the exception of a number of low, rounded and widely scattered hills. There are no trees, rather low scrub and grasses make up the ground cover. Several creeks, most notably McDonald Creek, drain the area southward toward the Colorado River. Occasional pipeline pumping stations are present but do not constitute major intrusions.

Little color is evident, however the distant mountains add both variety and interest to the visual scene.

The influence of adjacent scenery is the strongest visual element within this area. Few modifications are obvious. Though fairly natural, it lacks great visual interest.

At the extreme western edge of this unit, and extending over a considerable area, a pinyon-juniper forest adds to the visual character. Within this section a very large number of deer tracks were noted indicating a grazing herd of possibly hundreds of animals. Sufficient browsing vegetation is also apparent. Located at the southwest section a change in elevation allows a spectacular overview of Rabbit Valley

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2 little
3	Water	5	3	0	1 some
4	Color	5	3	1	1 subtle
5	Influence	5	3	0	3 overviews
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1 common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2 none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
014	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 015 - South Interstate

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 21-25

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather partly cloudy

Landscape Character: Plateau

General Narrative: This is an area of land which slopes gently up from Grand Valley and levels out into a relatively flat topped tableland. A number of small narrow valleys, and hills are within this series of plateaus. The entire unit extends somewhat parallel to and south of, Interstate 70 with elevations up to 1000' above the road bed.

Angular sharp side slopes, occasional rounded ridges, and deeply etched watercourses give way to large flattened crowns, typical of plateaus.

Moderate to sparse stands of pinyon-juniper line the slopes where occasional rock outcrops of red-brown, grey and tan sedimentary rock lay in horizontal banding.

Being considerably high, this area offers panoramic views in most directions. The adjacent valley units create contrasting visual elements in the overall landscape. This area is natural, somewhat rugged and interesting, and due to its location, the entire northern edge is open to view to those who use I-70 in addition to those communities located in the valley.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	-3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Le

SQRU	Final R
015	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Grand Junction

Date 12/10/78

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 020-Horsethief Canyon

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 31,32,33,34

Time of Day 12:00 noon

Weather Partly Cloudy

Landscape Character: Canyon/Riparian Area

General Narrative: Horsethief Canyon is situated in the southwest corner of the planning units south of unit (015) south of the interstate. This canyon has been created by the down cutting of the Colorado River after it passes through the Grand Valley. The sidewalls of the canyon drop 400-600' in stair step fashion and define the unit boundary. Primarily sedimentary in origin, these sidewalls exhibit distinct colorful banding and are in contrast to the flat valley floor. This unit is very similar to Ruby Canyon in landscape elements. The primary difference is the valley floor is generally wider. and the continuity of the canyon walls are more broken, providing for a greater spatial definition and more expansive views than Ruby Canyon.

Pinyon Juniper along the canyon walls have random isolated patterns depending upon the vertical relief of the rock outcrops. Grasses and sages are throughout the unit in the valley floor as well as on the side slopes. Cottonwoods and willows characteristically are contained to the valley floor along the river banks.

The Colorado River is the dominant visual element in this landscape. Modifications are limited to the far western section of the unit and include the Denver Rio Grande Railroad. The impact of this modification is limited and does not effect the scenic quality of this interesting landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	5
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Ratin
020	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 021-Upper Bowls

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 12,14

Time of Day 3:30 p.

Weather sunny, cold

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: This landscape consists of the upper bowl shaped landforms characteristically serving as a transitionary or intermediate landform between the steep narrow canyons and the higher mountains.

These bowls are moderately sloping and are fairly uniform in nature. As one climbs out of the canyons below, views are more expansive in this landscape.

Primarily made up of shale, these landforms are less dramatic and less weathered than surrounding landscapes.

Vegetation consists of low lying scrub and scrub oak, with an intermix of aspen and evergreens. Evergreens and aspens do not cover the slopes completely, rather they have random, unordered patterns.

This landscape is accentuated due to views of contrasting landforms that border the unit. As a result, these views of the steep rugged mountains and canyons add to the scenic quality of this area.

Water features are limited and do not affect the scenic quality. Modifications do not exist, resulting in a natural environment.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rati
021	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 022-Unit Divide

Film: Roll # Frame #

unable to photograph

Landscape Character:

Date 12/11/78

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Time of Day 4:00 p.m.

Weather sunny, cold

Mountains

General Narrative: Situated between Big Salt Wash Canyon and Trail Canyon, this unit consists of the upper, less dramatic slopes above the steep, near vertical canyon sidewalls. This ridge is an extension of the mountainous environment and is very similar to the mountainous extensions of the Baxter Pass unit (006).

Vegetation consists of evergreens, primarily firs and pines, although some pinyon-juniper associations are present throughout the unit. Aspens are also present, but are limited primarily to the wetter areas or drainages.

Visually, there are no dominant or outstanding elements in this landscape. There are a variety of elements, but one does not stand above others.

Water features are limited within the unit and though may be dominant on a site specific basis, region wide they have little if any visual impact.

Views from the unit are panoramic and add to the scenic quality of the unit. These views accentuate the unit because of the contrasting landscapes that are seen from this unit, all of which accentuate the differences between this landscape and other landscapes.

No modifications exist in the unit, and as a result the unit is natural and visually interesting.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 022 - Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Drill Site - 001

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Baxter/Douglas

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	0	4

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	1	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 1 Frame # 10

Time of day 10:00 a. Weather high overcast

Evaluator KVM, CJ, MF

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast:

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This site is presently being excavated for gas reserves evidenced by the many trucks, equipment, and drilling rigs. Although it is an intrusion of some size it will in the future become one of many small gas wells that are isolated throughout this unit and will have little impact on the total scenic quality.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Terra Resources Inc. Gas Well #2 - 002

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Baxter/Douglas

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	0	5

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	2	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 3 Frame # 30,31,32,

Time of day 9:30 a Weather clear

Evaluator

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This gas well is one of many found throughout this region. Like others it is relatively small scale when compared to the total rating unit. There are several small pumping stations, and evidence of a natural gas pipeline corridor.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Western Slope Gas Pumping Station - 003

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Baxter/Douglas

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	2

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	3	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 1 Frame # 4

Time of day 9:00 a. Weather high overcast

Evaluator KVM, CJ, MF

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

There are a few isolated structures which are colored in earth tones that help these structures blend into the natural landscape. Also in this site there is a metal tower (radio) that does not attract too much attention because of the ability to see through the tower.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY
AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USE VOLUME

TABLE 3

USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY

(Baxter/Douglas and Mt. Garfield
Planning Units)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT	LOCATION	VOLUME
Interstate 70	State Line - Debeque Canyon	High
U.S. Hwy. 6	Mack - Grand Junction-Palisade	High
U.S. Hwy. 50	Mack - Grand Junction	High
State Route 139	Loma - Douglas Pass	High
State Route 146	Intersection w/50 to Rte. 6	High
Orchard Mesa Road	Orchard Mesa to Palisade	High
Moulton Valley Road	I-70 to Mt. Garfield	High
-	Walker Field to Fruita	High
Book Cliff Mine Road	Walker Field to Book Cliff Mine	Moderate
Little Salt Wash Road	East of Fruita to Hunder Canyon	High
Dry Gulch Road	Fruita to Farmers Mine	Moderate
Big Salt Wash Road	West of Fruita to Big Salt Wash	Moderate
Coal Gulch Road	Coal Gulch	Moderate
Mack Mesa Road	East to West across Mack Mesa	Moderate
Horsethief Canyon Access	Mack to Horsethief Canyon	Moderate
Rabbit Valley Road	Rabbit Valley	Moderate
Demaree Canyon Rim Road	State Route 139 to N. Demaree Canyon	Moderate
Lookout Mountain Road	State Route 139 to Lookout Mountain	High
"Rim Road"	Upper 4-A Mountain to Baxter Pass	Moderate
West Salt Creek Canyon Rd.	West Salt Creek to U.S. Hwy. 6	Moderate
Colorado River	Palisade to Ruby Canyon	High

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

OVERVIEW

A combined sensitivity workshop for both the Baxter/Douglas and Mt. Garfield Planning Units was held in the BLM District Office conference room at 9:30 a.m. on February 14, 1979. Of the 23 individuals contacted, 15 attended. Some of those attending were not among the 23 initially contacted. With one exception, all those attending participated by filling out a form. In addition, Carlos Sarvage, the BLM Area recreation planner and Rob Cleary, the BLM District landscape architect participated. Representation by participants was as follows:

AGRICULTURE	
. Ranching	2
ENERGY INDUSTRY	
. Extraction	4
. Transportation (pipeline)	2
. Electrical Generation	2
RECREATION	
. Guide	1
AGENCY	
. County	1
. Federal (2 BLM)	3
	15

A list of those invited and/or attending is shown in Table 4.

Mr. Ken Curry, District Surface Protection Specialist, opened the workshop (in place of Mr. Mac Berta, Area Manager, who was unable to attend) with an introduction which included the relationship of this workshop to the overall Area planning effort. Next Mr. Bill Bottomly, State Office landscape architect, and COAR for this study, made a presentation on the use of this data in the

Bureau's planning and decision-making process, noting that the visual resource is but one factor in this process. The remainder of the workshop was presented and facilitated by Wirth Associates.

Of the 15 rating forms submitted, 14 were considered valid and used in the analysis. Of the 20 total original rating units, 4 rated High, 8 rated Moderate and 8 rated Low after tabulation and analysis. Participant scores for three of the original rating units were borderline Low/Moderate. These were units #12, 15 and 17; all of which are canyons. After discussion of these ratings with Mr. Berta and members of the District and Area staff (Carlos Sarvage, recreation planner; Rob Cleary, landscape architect; Dennis Jenkins, range conservationist and Henry Beauchamp, planner) it was decided that the upper ends of these canyons were the basis for the moderate ratings -- being more natural and used by residents for recreation purposes, while the lower portions were the basis for the low ratings -- being more degraded and used primarily for resource extraction and access. As a result, rating units #12, 15 and 17 were subdivided according to a concensus of the group present into upper canyons of moderate sensitivity and lower canyons of low sensitivity. These sub-units are indicated on the Sensitivity Attitudes map overlay as rating units #12A, 15A and 17A.

The four units which were rated high include Highline Lake #1, Colorado River #2, Ruby/Horsethief Canyons #4, and Book Cliffs #9. The first three are water-related recreation areas which occur in a region with little water. The last, the Book Cliffs, is a dominant and scenic regional landmark for this reason the high rating is appropriate and expected.

The areas rating Moderate were, with one exception, all north of the Book Cliffs in the dissected ridge and canyon country. The exception is Rabbit Valley #6 which was rated Moderate due to the large number of sight-seers and recreationists using the area, especially during the winter when the high country to the north is snowed in. Three types of units north of the Book Cliffs rated Moderate. These were the high mountain coniferous/aspen rims bordering the Baxter/Douglas-Mt. Garfield Planning Units in horseshoe fashion around the western, northern, and eastern boundaries; the isolated ridge and narrow valley complexes between the major canyons; and the more natural of the major canyons.

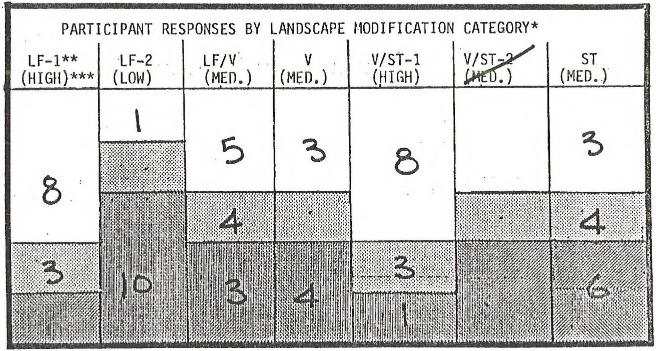
Low ratings were given to all other areas which included the more degraded canyons north of the Book Cliffs as well as the non-distinctive or developed to degraded areas in or near the Grand Valley.

The narratives submitted by workshop participants regarding specific issues or projects of concern follow the Workshop Summary and Analysis Sheets.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG/MT.GAR.

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #1 Highline Lake	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	9
	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	1
		R	


PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Responses for Desired Mgmt. Class indicate a very high level of concern which generally correlates with the overall high adverse reactions to change of various types.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG./MT.GAR.

Workshop Rating Unit: #2

Colorado River

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	1
	HP	5
MED.	MP	9
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	4	5	2	2	4		5
▒	4	1	4	1	2		1
▓	7	8	7	6	8		8

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Desired Mgmt Class ratings are moderate to high while reaction to change is low overall. The final rating however, was raised to HIGH by BLM Area personnel because Skipper's Island is the last area of publicly owned riparian habitat on the Colorado. The Hwy. Dept. wants to construct a rest area & interchange on the Island & is supported by the Chamber of Commerce. The Isaac Walton League leads the opposition. The area now supports a Blue Heron rookery.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

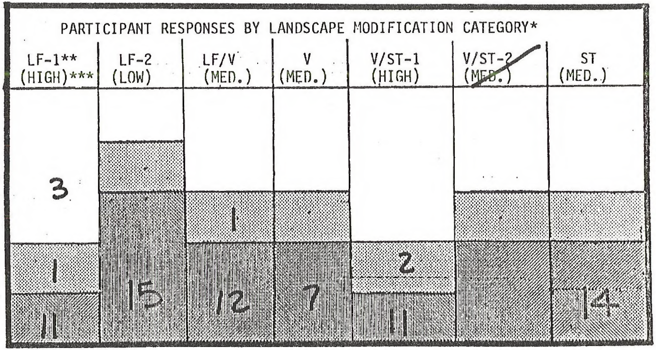
Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG/MT.GAR.

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #3			
Grand Valley Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):			
	LANDSCAPE VALUES	HIGH P	
		HIGH HP	
		MED. MP	5
		LOW LP	9
		R	1



Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correspond well to the clearly low ratings for response to changes.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #4 Ruby/Horsethief Canyons

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	6
	HP	1
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	3
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
8	6	6	2	6		7
4	2	4	2	2		2
2	4	2	4	4		4

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: The high ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class corresponds well to the overall high ratings for reaction to landscape change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG/MT. GAR.

Workshop Rating Unit: # 5

Salt Creek

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	8
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
☐	2	1	1	1	1		2
▒	2	2	3	1	4		4
▩	10	9	8	6	7		7

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: The low ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correlate well with the overall low ratings for user reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAK.-DOUG/MT. GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 6

Rabbit Valley

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	8
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-~~2~~ ~~(~~MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3		1	1	1		3
▒	2	4	5	2	2		3
▓	9	8	6	5	8		7

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The low ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correspond well with the overall low ratings for user reaction to landscape modifications. The final rating was raised to MODERATE by the BLM Area Office personnel based on their knowledge of the area. Rabbit Valley is essentially all public domain and is heavily used by sight-seers & recreationists, especially in the winter when northern areas are snow packed.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

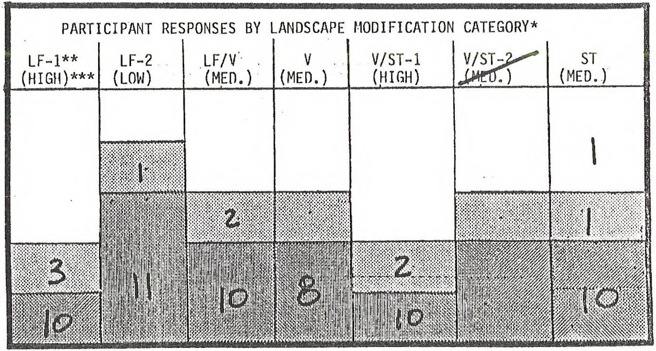
PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG./MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #7
kDonald Creek

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	9
	R	



Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings for reaction to change correlates well with the low level of concern indicated by ratings for Desired Mgmt Class.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

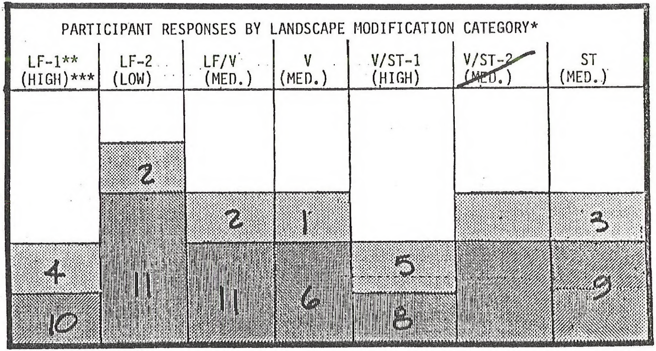
PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG/MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 8 Book Cliffs footslopes

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	
MED.	MP	8
LOW	LP	7
	R	


PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: The moderate/low borderline ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class were resolved to an overall rating of LOW on the strength of the low ratings for reaction to all types of change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG/MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #9
Book Cliffs

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	5
	HP	5
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
☐	9	5	9	3	7		9
▒	4	2	5		4		1
▓	1	1		2	1		1

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Reaction to landscape change is high overall which correlates well with the strong high ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #10

Prairie Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	3
MED.	MP	7
LOW	LP	3
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
4		2	2	2		2
4	3	3	1	3		4
6	9	6	7	7		6

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class and low overall ratings for reaction to change were resolved to a final rating of MODERATE by BLM Area Office personnel based on their knowledge of the area. Although the canyon bottoms contain intrusions, the canyon sides are relatively free of intrusions and as such are more sensitive than other canyons in the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT. GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 11

Baxter Pass

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	6
MED.	MP	9
LOW	LP	
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
□	4		5	2	4		5
▨	8	4	4	7	5		5
▦	2	7	4	4	4		3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate rating for Desired Mgmt Class correspond well with the overall moderate ratings for user reaction to change.

* □ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▦ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT. GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #12

West Salt
reek Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	1
MED.	MP	9
LOW	LP	4
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
☐	2		1	1	2		2
▨	4	3	2	4	3		3
▩	7	9	9	5	7		4

Final Rating: Unit #12 LOW ; Unit #12a MODERATE

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class were moderate while ratings for user response to change was low overall. BLM Area Office personnel felt that the low rating was accurate for the lower canyon areas while the moderate ratings was more appropriate for the upper less intruded portions of the unit. A new subunit was created based on these recommendations.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

- Resource Extraction (mining)
- Landfill
- Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

- Roads
- Pipelines
- ORV Use
- Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

- Power Lines
- Tramways
- Reflectors/Repeators
- Substations

Structures

- Residential
- Hwy. Rest Stop
- Visitor Center

Landform-2

- Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

- Timber Harvest
- Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
- Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAK.-DOUG/MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #13

Demaree Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	10
LOW	LP	3
	R	

M

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-~~2~~ ~~(MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	2		1	1	2		3
▨	3	3	4	4	4		5
▩	7	7	6	5	5		1

L

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class are moderate while ratings for user response to change are low. This was resolved to an overall rating of MODERATE by [illegible] Area Office personnel based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX-DOUG./MT. GAR.

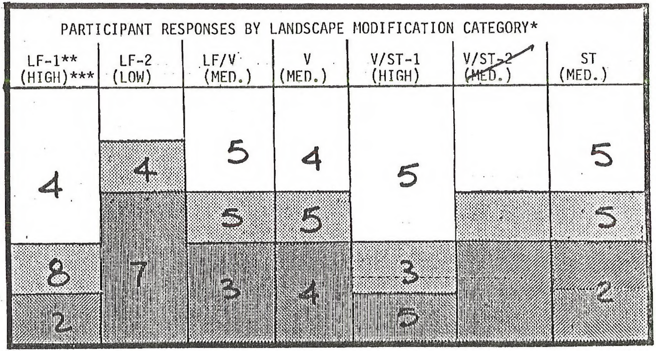
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 14

Douglas Pass

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	8
MED.	MP	6
LOW	LP	1
	R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	4		5	4	5		5
▒	8	4	5	5	3		5
▓	2	7	3	4	5		2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The borderline moderate/high ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class were resolved to MODERATE on the strength of the moderate ratings for user reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAK-DOUG./MT. GAR.

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #15 East Salt Creek Canyon	HIGH	P	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH	HP	1
	MED.	MP	9
	LOW	LP	4
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	3		1	1	2		2
▒	2	2	3	3	3		2
▓	8	9	8	6	7		7

Final Rating: Unit #15 LOW; Unit # 15a MODERATE

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class are moderate while ratings for user reaction to change are low overall. BLM Area Office personnel felt that the low rating for the lower canyon areas was most appropriate because of their more intruded nature while the moderate rating was more appropriate for the upper canyons which were less intruded and have a higher recreation potential. The creation of a subunit in the upper canyons (Unit # 14a) was made to reflect this difference.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT. GAB.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #16

Long Point

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	7
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-~~2~~ (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
☐	4		3	2	2		7
▨	6	2	5	6	7		2
■	3	6	4	3	3		2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class are high while ratings for user reaction to change are moderate overall. Based on their knowledge of the area, BLM Area Office representatives felt that the MODERATE rating was most appropriate.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT. GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #17

Big Salt Wash

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	1
MED.	MP	8
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-~~2~~ (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
☐	2		1	1	2		3
▒	6	1	4	2	4		5
▓	5	11	7	7	6		4

Final Rating: Unit #17 LOW ; Unit #17a MODERATE

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class are moderate while ratings for user reaction to change are low overall. BLM Area Office personnel felt that the low rating was most appropriate for the lower more intruded canyon while the upper canyon which is less intruded and has higher recreation potential should rate a moderate.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAX.-DOUG./MT. GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 18
Coal Gulch

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	8
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	~~V/ST-2 (MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	2	1	1	1	2		3
░	4		2	3	3		2
▓	7	11	9	6	7		7

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class are moderate while reaction to change is low. BLM Area personnel felt that the LOW rating was most appropriate overall.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAK-DOUG./MT.GAR

Workshop Rating Unit: #19

Garfield Mesa

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
	HIGH	P	
	HIGH	HP	3
	MED.	MP	9
	LOW	LP	3
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 ~~(MED.)~~	ST (MED.)
☐	2	1	2	1	2		4
▨	7	1	6	6	8		3
▩	5	10	5	4	3		3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate rating for Desired Mgmt. Class correlates well with the overall moderate ratings for user reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT BAY.-DOUG./MT.GAR.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: Ridge # 20

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	3
MED.	MP	7
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (~~MED.~~)	ST (MED.)
High	1	1	2		1		5
Moderate	7	1	6	6	8		2
Low	6	9	5	5	4		3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate rating for desired Mgmt. Class correlates well with the overall moderate reaction to changes.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential
Hwy. Rest Stop
Visitor Center

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)
Burning

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant [illegible]

Date [illegible]

The [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
visual changes are necessary and conform with [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of reclamation they would be OK
(Lone Mt) Certain landmarks (Mt. [illegible])
[illegible] [illegible] changed,

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant JOHN BALLAGH

Date FEB 14, 1979

THE CATEGORIES HAVE STRANGE GROUPINGS - GRAZING IS NOT EQUAL TO TIMBER HARVEST

ORV USE IN WINTER DOES NOT IMPACT NEAR AS MUCH AS A ROAD

SHORT RAIL SPURS DO NOT IMPACT LIKE STEEP SLOPE ROADS.

GENERAL LOCATION WITHIN ANY PARTICULAR UNIT MAY MAKE A CATEGORY MORE OR LESS OBJECTIONABLE. HENCE, THE RANGE FOR CAUSING STRONG TO LOW REACTIONS TO CHANGE.

VEGETATION HAS A TEMPERING EFFECT ON SOME OF THESE CHANGES — WITHIN ANY AREA AN ACTIVITY MAY BE MORE VISIBLE BECAUSE OF VEGETATION HIDING OR NON-HIDING.

DEFINE PROCESS

— DELBEQUE

STRESS — VISUAL

VEGETATION IN "8" VARIES DEPENDING
ON WATER

quit -
feeling as
a might
class -
mountain

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant Chris Douflas

Date 2/14/79

General Observation

As Long as Common Sense dictates All of these decisions Then I beleive it is fine to use these Statistics As Guidelines only.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant________________________

Date____________________________

Use Common sense on all

land and projects.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant Dave Valentini

Date 2-14-79

I feel that the Landform / Vegetation categories are not clearly [illegible] [illegible] each other. For instance [illegible] which has a significant visual impact compared to a buried pipeline which can be revegetated and have almost no visual impact in a few years.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant GEORGE VONESH

Date FEB 14, 1979

The groupings (I.E. Landform/Vegetation, vegetation, vegetation/structures) are so diverse that it is next to impossible to assign one rating for each category.

For instance,

A rehabilitated pipeline ROW cannot be compared to a (semi) permanent road/railroad spur.

From an industry standpoint (natural gas facilities), most are compatible with each area if designed so.

FINAL VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS

OVERVIEW

After analysis areas of high overall sensitivity occurred in these primary areas. The first is the corridor along the Colorado River at the southern border including Rabbit Valley. The second is a band through the middle of the planning units made up of the Book Cliffs as well as the area around Highline Lake. Lastly there are a number of scattered, usually lineal, units along several of the upper ridges in the ridge and canyon country north of the Book Cliffs. These are largely the result of moderate user concerns combined with their visibility from high volume roads in the canyons. Somewhat less than 20 percent of the total area resulted in High final sensitivity.

Well over half the study area resulted in a final visual sensitivity of Moderate. With the exception of the Colorado River corridor, Rabbit Valley and Highline Lake, everything south of the Book Cliffs in the Grand Valley area rated moderate overall sensitivity. This is due to low user attitudes combined with the wide exposure this area received from the numerous high volume roads.

North of the Book Cliffs a majority of the area rated Moderate sensitivity overall because 1) the major valleys received low user attitude concerns but have a high volume of use or 2) because they were ridge and valley units with both moderate use and user concern.

With the exception of a portion of the mouth of Prairie Canyon which is Seldom Seen (low volume) nothing south of the Book Cliffs rated Low overall sensitivity.

North of the Book Cliffs, areas of low overall sensitivity were the result of low user concern combined with moderate to low volume. The larger units rating overall low sensitivity north of the Book Cliffs include West Salt Creek and its tributary canyons, South Canyon and its side canyons, Hay and Calf Canyons, Munger Creek, Big Salt Wash, and Coal Gulch.

DISTANCE ZONES

OVERVIEW

Key observer points from which Distance Zones were determined for the Baxter/ Douglas-Mt. Garfield Planning Units are listed in Table 3.

Well over 75 percent of the planning units are in the Foreground-Middleground Zone. Virtually everything from the Book Cliffs south is in this zone because of its open nature combined with the number of roads and the river corridor. North of the Book Cliffs nearly all major canyons became Foreground-Middleground including West Salt Creek, East Salt Creek, Big Salt Wash and Coal Gulch. In addition two lesser roads off Colorado Route 139 were listed as Key Observer Points - one going to Lookout Mountain and beyond and the other traversing the northern rim of Demaree and Howard Canyons.

A relatively small percent of the total area became Background. One area was located near the entrance to Prairie Canyon and a larger, more extensive area is located along and near the Baxter/Douglas and Mt. Garfield Planning Unit boundaries.

There were some relatively large to small scattered areas of Seldom Seen land north of the Book Cliffs in the dissected ridge and canyon country. The

largest area of Seldom Seen land occurs in Prairie Canyon. The road up Prairie Canyon was not indicated as being a Key Observer Point.

MT. GARFIELD P.V.

Grand Jct. R.A.,
" - District

MT. GARFIELD PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING

The Mt. Garfield Planning Unit is irregularly shaped and encompasses 347,000 acres of land in western Colorado.

The unit extends some 30 miles north and south, spanning roughly 17 miles east and west at its widest point, and tapering to as little as a mile or less at its northern extreme and to approximately 7 miles along the southern boundary.

The Colorado River flows southeast to northwest through the southern portion of the unit and its structural influence in the area is visible in the fact that the majority of the local alndforms are diagonally oriented in this same southeast-northwest direction.

Over time, the Colorado has formed the broad, extensive Grand Valley which constitutes the majority of the land in the south-central portion of the planning unit and supports a variety of land uses. The valley is very flat and open and is widely used for agricultural purposes. Grand Junction and Fruita are also found in the valley as are two major east-west thoroughfares, Interstate 70 and Route 6, and a dense rectilinear grid of country roads. Due to the preponderance of cultural modifications, the Grand Valley retains little of its natural character.

South of the Grand Valley, the land grades into an area of low rolling hills and curvilinear swales. Many residential structures are located here.

North of the Grand Valley, the land slopes gradually upward into a series of frequently repeating mounded hills which end abruptly at the foot of the sharply rising Book Cliffs.

The Book Cliffs are the most outstanding scenic feature in the planning unit. Their distinct definition and strong vertical lines contrast strongly with the adjacent landforms and because they tower over the nearby hills and valleys, they are visually prominent throughout most of the area. The cliffs are very colorful as they are composed of highly stratified multi-colored sedimentary rock, and variations in form and texture are common along the cliff faces.

Northeast of the Book Cliffs the planning unit tapers into a rather narrow arm of land which is characterized by a series of small steep-walled canyons which branch off Big Salt Wash Canyon, a heavily eroded canyon which runs roughly north and south. To the northeast of this canyon area, a series of mountains rise to elevations of between 7200 and 8888 feet.

Vegetation in the planning unit is varied. Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine are found at higher elevations on both north and south-facing slopes. Groves of aspen and stands of spruce are common to the middle elevations, and pinyon/juniper communities are dominant in the lower, hilly areas. The Grans Valley is dominated by pasturelands, croplands, and fruit orchards, but in non-agricultural areas is vegetated with grasses and low shrubs. Cottonwoods and low, red-twigged willows are common along drainage courses.

TABLE 5

SQRU GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES & SUMMARY
PLANNING UNIT: MT. GARFIELD

GENERAL TYPE KEY

Mountains	MT	Rolling Hills	RH
Ridges and Narrow Valleys	R&NV	Broad Valleys	BV
Canyons	C	Cliffs	CL
Plateaus	P	Riparian Area	RA
		Man-Made Lake	MML

SQRU NO.	NAME	GENERAL TYPE	
008	Book Cliffs	Cliffs	(CL)
011	Long Point	Mountains	(M)
012	Book Cliff Hills	Rolling Hills	(RH)
013	Grand Valley	Broad Valley	(BV)
015	South Interstate	Plateau	(P)
016	Highline Lake	Man-Made Lake	(MML)
017	Salt Wash/Coal Gulch	Canyon	(C)
018	Colorado River	Riparian Area	(RA)
019	Garfield Mesa	Ridges and Narrow Valleys	(RNV)
020	Horsethief Canyon	Canyon/Riparian Area	(CRA)
021	Upper Bowls	Mountains	(M)
022	Unit Border	Mountains	(M)

TABLE 6

DISTRICT: GRAND JUNCTION

RESOURCE AREA: GRAND JUNCTION

PLANNING UNIT: MT. GARFIELD

SQRU		RATING CRITERIA							TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
008	Book Cliffs	5	1	0	4	3	6	2	21	A
011	Long Point	4	4	1	3	3	2	2	19	A
012	Book Cliff Hills	2	2	1	2	4	1	1	13	B
013	Grand Valley	1	3	2	3	2	1	-2	10	C
015	South Interstate	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	12	B
016	Highline Lake	1	2	5	3	2	4	0	17	B
017	Big Salt Wash/ Coal Gulch	4	2	1	4	2	2	2	17	B
018	Colorado River	2	3	5	4	3	4	-3	18	B
019	Garfield Mesa	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	13	B
020	Horsethief Canyon	3	2	5	4	0	5	2	21	A
021	Upper Bowls	2	3	0	3	3	2	2	15	B
022	Unit Divide	3	3	0	3	3	1	2	16	B

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Two rating units within the Mt. Garfield Planning Unit (008 Book Cliffs and 020 Horsethief Canyon) have been identified as potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by virtue of the fact that they represent Class A scenery and have received a rating of 5 or 6 in regard to their relative scarcity within the region.

These rating units represent areas of extraordinary scenic quality and requires special management attention to insure preservation of the qualities which make them exceptional.

The rating criteria for these units appear below.

SQRU		RATING CRITERIA							TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
008	Book Cliffs	5	1	0	4	3	6	2	21	A
020	Horsethief Canyon	3	2	5	4	0	5	2	21	A

008 - Book Cliffs - The Book Cliffs are a visually dominant landscape feature when viewed throughout the Grand Valley. This highly eroded and disected landform creates interesting shadow and color contrasts. The extensiveness of these cliffs make them unique to the region.

020 - Horsethief Canyon - This unit is very similar to (001) Ruby Canyon. The principal difference is that the canyon walls are somewhat less dramatic and lack continuity. Horsethief Canyon combines a variety of contrasting elements which create a variety of interesting spatial experiences.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY AND DISTANCE ZONES

Narratives for the following sections of the Mt. Garfield Planning Unit report have been combined with the report narratives for the Baxter/Douglas Planning Unit and are located under corresponding headings in that section:

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USE VOLUME

DATA SUMMARY TABLE

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

OVERVIEW

DATA SUMMARY FORMS

SPECIFIC ISSUE NARRATIVES

FINAL VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS

OVERVIEW

DISTANCE ZONES

OVERVIEW

District Grand Junction

Date 12-11-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 008 - Book Cliffs

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 1-6,8,9,29-31
5 17-19,26,27,30,34
6 9,13-15,18,19, 23-26,30-34

Time of Day 4:15 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Cliffs and Ridges

General Narrative: The Book Cliffs are a very extensive series of highly angular, often vertical, sedimentary rock. Having been strongly eroded, these cliffs have a diversity of forms including sharp pointed ridges, "V" shaped valleys, abrupt angles and angular slopes. The Cliffs immediately north of Grand Junction are apparently more resistant to erosion and appear as a massive, blocky wall which terminates at Mt. Garfield.

Distinct wide horizontal bands of various shades of pink, light greys, reds, and red-browns with an occasional dark grey to black shale line these expansive slopes.

The Book Cliffs are a well-defined edge between the adjacent valley to the south, and to the mass of ridges and narrow valleys to the north. Rising 1000 feet above the valley floor, they offer a distinct contrast and become a dominant scenic element viewed throughout the valley.

Though mostly barren, the Book Cliffs do support a widely scattered, sparse population of pinyon and juniper. The natural, untouched character of this landscape, its relative scarcity, and its visual interest make the Book Cliffs an outstanding feature and a prominent visual influence throughout this planning unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	5
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	6
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 008 - Final Rating A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 011 - Long Point

Film: Roll # 3

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Frame # 16

Weather clear

Landscape Character: (See Baxter-Douglas) Mountains

General Narrative: This series of mountains are uniform in height at approximately 8500 feet. Steep angular side slopes, and massive rock outcrops are commonly found within this area. A number of small creeks drain these mountains toward either Big Salt Wash to the east or East Salt Creek to the west.

Fir and Pine trees are located along many of the ridges in a patchwork design, often thickly clustered and occasionally very sparse. Along the lower slopes, dense stands of scrub oak, pinyon and juniper are present, intermixed with a low scrubby cover of sage.

Views are panoramic in all directions from this near pristine landscape. Few trails have been located in this area.

The uniformity of these crests make then appear mesa-like when viewed from a distance.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-alpine
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not prominent
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
011	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 012 - Book Cliff Hills

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 1-3,6,8,29-31
5 4-9,18-20,32
6 4,23-26,30-34

Time of Day 10:00 a.m.

Weather mostly sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: The hills at the base of the Book Cliffs are an area of transition between the valley floor and the cliffs which rise to the north. The unit contains expanses of wide flat land, but its central and most striking features are the heavily dissected areas of low frequently repeating rounded hills which are defined by a dense network of incised drainages. Intermittent streams are created to carry fluvial material southward across the valley floor to the Colorado River. The rhythmic pattern of the landscape is extraordinary and is further emphasized by a low sun angle early and late in the day when shadows intensify. The area's vegetation is dominated by an extensive cover of sagebrush and grasses. Color is therefore muted but serves as a subtle contrast to the vivid colors displayed in the Book Cliffs. The strong contrast of light and shadows adds to the unit's color. The adjacent Book Cliffs add significantly to the scenery of these hills. There is little cultural modification throughout the unit. Because of its landform this unit is viewed as an unusual and distinctive landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-repeating hills
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-little diversity
3	Water	5	-3	0	1-not prominent
4	Color	5	3	1	2-subtle
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-Book Cliffs
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-distinctive
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-minor

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
012	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 013 - Grand Valley

Time of Day 12:00

Film:	Roll #	Frame #
	4	1-9,29-31
	5	1-7,21-34
	6	9-16,18,22-26, 30-34

Weather partly cloudy

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: The Grand Valley is a sixty-mile long broad valley landscape stretching from Grand Junction, Colorado and into Utah. This unit is just a portion of the entire valley. It spans a 30-mile distance from Grand Junction in the southeast of the Mt. Garfield Planning Unit into the eastern edge of the Baxter/Douglas Unit. A majority of this area is seen as a flat, level surface but isolated areas of flat-topped or low rolling hills stand out as prominent features along the valley floor. The cliffs and hills to both the north and south help to define this unit. Agricultural modification and associated rural development dominate the valley here and therefore many of its characteristics. Vegetation includes many varied crops and fruit orchards. Many shade trees surround individual homesites. Also man-made canals and natural waterways, extensive road systems and fence rows support tree and shrub associations of cottonwoods, willows and other species. Although it is not a dominant visual feature, a number of tiny reservoirs and water courses indicate an intense association with water.

Color is seasonably variable, changing with the crops. Both the Book Cliffs to the north and the cliffs of the Colorado National Monument enhance the scenic quality of the unit.

Grand Junction is the major urban center in this region, located at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. Palisade, Fruita, Loma, Mack, Clifton and others serve as local community centers throughout the valley. From these centers, especially Grand Junction, intense urban development sprawls out into the rural setting often making it difficult to tell where the city ends and the countryside begins. I-70, the railroad tracks and the area near the

(over)

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-agriculture
3	Water	5	3	0	2-canals
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	2-Book Cliffs, CNM
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2 - sprawl

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Ratin
013	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas - Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG, KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 015 - South Interstate

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 23-28
5 31

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather partly cloudy

Landscape Character: Plateau

General Narrative: This is an area of land which slopes gently up from Grand Valley and levels out into a relatively flat topped tableland. A number of small narrow valleys, and hills are within this series of plateaus. The entire unit extends somewhat parallel to and south of, Interstate 70 with elevations up to 1000' above the road bed.

Angular sharp side slopes, occasional rounded ridges, and deeply etched watercourses give way to large flattened crowns, typical of plateaus.

Moderate to sparse stands of pinyon-juniper line the slopes where occasional rock outcrops of red-brown, grey and tan sedimentary rock lay in horizontal banding.

Being considerably high, this area offers panoramic views in most directions. The adjacent valley units create contrasting visual elements in the overall landscape. This area is natural, somewhat rugged and interesting, and due to its location, the entire northern edge is open to view to those who use I-70 in addition to those communities located in the valley.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rati
015	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter/Douglas

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 016 Highline Lake

Film: Roll # 6

Frame # 1-3; 27, 28

Time of Day 10:00 A.M.

Weather clear, 0°F

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills/man-made lake

General Narrative: Highline Lake State Recreation area is situated in the northern portions of Grand Valley and contains many landscape elements found in the valley itself. The landscape is gently rolling with isolated cottonwoods, in primarily grasslands and is relatively of little interest. Situated in a valley bottom, external views to the lake are limited to the higher elevation rolling hills to the north. These views often extend up to three miles which give the lake a natural, and interesting setting.

Because it is a state recreation area, and one of a few very large water bodies in this region, it appears heavily impacted during the summer months as indicated by the recreation features, structures, and information guides throughout this recreational site. These recreational features do not severely damage the visual quality due to their natural appearance in both color and structural elements. Although this area would normally have little significance, the fact that it is a state recreation area offering many water-oriented recreational activities, is important, and should maintain a high level of protection.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
016	B

Subtotal ___ + ___ + ___ = Total 17 = ___
A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-10-78

Planning Unit Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 017 - Big Salt Wash & Coal Gulch

Film: Roll # 5 Frame # 10-16

6 5-8

Time of Day 3:00 P.M.

Weather Sunny

Landscape Character: Canyons

General Narrative: The canyons found locally within the Mt. Garfield planning unit are characterized by lofty steeply sloping to nearly vertical walls which define narrow canyon floors. Massive, blocky sedimentary rock outcrops and broken boulders are common to the sideslopes. The banded sandstones and shales in the canyon are colorful and they have been eroded into a variety of pyramidcal, conical, and blocky forms. The canyon walls are barren in extremely steep areas but are vegetated with a widely scattered spotty cover of pinon, juniper, and sagebrush along the more moderate slopes. As the canyon walls flatten into the canyon floor, the sagebrush, pinon, and juniper become quite dense. Scattered cottonwoods indicate the presence of drainage courses. The canyons are free of significant cultural modifications and their rugged, precipitious terrain and diversity of form and color create a strongly scenic visual experience.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4 - steep, sculptured terrain
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2 - little diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	1 - little
4	Color	5	3	1	4 - pleasing contrasts
5	Influence	5	3	0	2 - occasional mt. views
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2 - somewhat
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2 - none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ________ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 007

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12-11-78

Planning Unit Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 018 - Colorado River

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 19-22

6 20-22

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Riparian

General Narrative: The Colorado River flows through the southern portion of the planning unit following a meandering course as it moves from east to west. It is swiftly flowing and locally ranges up to as much as 30 yards in width. In many areas the Colorado has become deeply incised in the easily erodable sandstone and shale formations which underlie the area. Along these stretches of the river, the Colorado is bounded by high, nearly vertical cliffs or steep bluffs. Colorful beds of sedimentary rock strata have been exposed in these areas, significantly increasing the visual interest of the river course. Although vegetation is very sparse along the steep slopes bounding the Colorado, the gently sloping to flat riverbanks are densely vegetated with willow, cottonwood, box elder, and mixed herbaceous species. This riparian vegetation exhibits a diversity of growth forms and seasonal color which contrast pleasingly with the form and color of the surrounding soil, rock, and water. The Colorado River is a prominent and very beautiful scenic element in this landscape, however, extensive cultural modifications along its banks detract greatly from its overall scenic quality. Among the many distracting visual intrusions which were noted along the riverbanks are Interstate 70, the tracks and signal lights of the Denver and Rio Grande West Railroad, a number of transmission lines, many gravel quarries, a cement plant, a sewage lagoon, and several residential developments.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-flat but occas. steep
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-dense riparian assoc.
3	Water	5	3	0	5-dominant feature
4	Color	5	3	1	4-rich contrast
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-3-see narrative

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
009	B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 18. = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 019-Garfield Mesa

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 35,36,37

Time of Day 4:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Ridges and Narrow Valleys

General Narrative: The Garfield Mesa area situated northwest of the Book Cliffs is primarily a series of ridges and narrow valleys. This area consists of the upper less dramatic slopes above Coal Gulch and Garvey Canyon. It is a fairly extensive landscape containing a variety of landscape elements.

The flat-topped mesas above the sloping landscape are contrasting in landform and vegetation. These flat mesas have been chained to remove the pinyon juniper associations which are the dominant vegetative types throughout this landscape. Little diversity of vegetation exists, the only contrast is to the chained areas.

Views are panoramic in all directions and add to the scenic quality of the area. These views highlight the differences between this and other landscapes.

Water is not a dominant element on a regional basis, although could be on a site specific basis. Colors, textures, and vegetation are uniform throughout the area with the exception of the chained areas.

Though largely natural, the landscape has been modified somewhat through chaining practices. Though these areas do have impacts today, in the future they could increase vegetative diversity in this relatively uniform area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rati
019	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/10/78

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 020-Horsethief Canyon

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 31,32,33,34

Time of Day 12:00 noon

Weather Partly Cloudy

Landscape Character: Canyon/Riparian Area

General Narrative: Horsethief Canyon is situated in the southwest corner of the planning units south of unit (015) south of the interstate. This canyon has been created by the down cutting of the Colorado River after it passes through the Grand Valley. The sidewalls of the canyon drop 400-600' in stair step fashion and define the unit boundary. Primarily sedimentary in origin, these sidewalls exhibit distinct colorful banding and are in contrast to the flat valley floor. This unit is very similar to Ruby Canyon in landscape elements. The primary difference is the valley floor is generally wider, and the continuity of the canyon walls are more broken, providing for a greater spatial definition and more expansive views than Ruby Canyon.

Pinyon Juniper along the canyon walls have random isolated patterns depending upon the vertical relief of the rock outcrops. Grasses and sages are throughout the unit in the valley floor as well as on the side slopes. Cottonwoods and willows characteristically are contained to the valley floor along the river banks.

The Colorado River is the dominant visual element in this landscape. Modifications are limited to the far western section of the unit and include the Denver Rio Grande Railroad. The impact of this modification is limited and does not effect the scenic quality of this interesting landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	5
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 020

Final Rati A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 021-Upper Bowls

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 12,14

Time of Day 3:30 p.

Weather sunny, cold

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: This landscape consists of the upper bowl shaped landforms characteristically serving as a transitionary or intermediate landform between the steep narrow canyons and the higher mountains.

These bowls are moderately sloping and are fairly uniform in nature. As one climbs out of the canyons below, views are more expansive in this landscape.

Primarily made up of shale, these landforms are less dramatic and less weathered than surrounding landscapes.

Vegetation consists of low lying scrub and scrub oak, with an intermix of aspen and evergreens. Evergreens and aspens do not cover the slopes completely, rather they have random, unordered patterns.

This landscape is accentuated due to views of contrasting landforms that border the unit. As a result, these views of the steep rugged mountains and canyons add to the scenic quality of this area.

Water features are limited and do not affect the scenic quality. Modifications do not exist, resulting in a natural environment.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Le

SQRU	Final Ra
021	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Grand Junction

Date 12/11/78

Planning Unit Baxter Douglas/Mt. Garfield

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 022-Unit Divide

Film: Roll # Frame #

unable to photograph

Time of Day 4:00 p.m.

Weather sunny, cold

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: Situated between Big Salt Wash Canyon and Trail Canyon, this unit consists of the upper, less dramatic slopes above the steep, near vertical canyon sidewalls. This ridge is an extension of the mountainous environment and is very similar to the mountainous extensions of the Baxter Pass unit (006).

Vegetation consists of evergreens, primarily firs and pines, although some pinyon-juniper associations are present throughout the unit. Aspens are also present, but are limited primarily to the wetter areas or drainages.

Visually, there are no dominant or outstanding elements in this landscape. There are a variety of elements, but one does not stand above others.

Water features are limited within the unit and though may be dominant on a site specific basis, region wide they have little if any visual impact.

Views from the unit are panoramic and add to the scenic quality of the unit. These views accentuate the unit because of the contrasting landscapes that are seen from this unit, all of which accentuate the differences between this landscape and other landscapes.

No modifications exist in the unit, and as a result the unit is natural and visually interesting.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 022 - Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Refinery - 004

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Mt. Garfield

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	3

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	4	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 5 Frame # 1, 22, 23

Time of day 3 p.m. Weather clear

Evaluator EB, PG

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water

2 - vegetation

3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.

M - The contrast begins to dominate.

H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification

E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.

M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.

L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (illustration 4).

The Gilsonite Refinery is located west of Fruita between I-70 and Hwy. 6. It is highly visible from many vantage points including the Colorado National Monument. The refinery's chaotic mix of smoke stacks, cranes and storage tanks contrasts strongly with the surrounding landscape. Large plumes of smoke rise from the refinery further drawing attention to it. The potential for rehabilitation of this intrusion is very low.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Junk Yard - 005

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Mt. Garfield

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	2

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	5	H	E	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 6 Frame # 4

Time of day 10:00 a. Weather sunny

Evaluator PG

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This junk yard is rather small but extends out on both sides of the road into Coal Gulch, a very scenic canyon. The disruption could easily be mitigated through removal of the junk yard.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Sewage Lagoons - 006

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates Mt. Garfield

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	8

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
1	0	0	6	L	M	M	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
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Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

FILM: Roll # 6 Frame # 22

Time of day 3 p.m. Weather sunny

Evaluator EB, PG

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).
The geometric shapes and hard lines of these manmade ponds are probably more visible from the air but from the ground their contrast with the natural form of the land is evident. The addition of surrounding vegetation might provide a buffer.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

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